

I. In Focus This Week

Off to the races

With a year to go, secretary of state races start to shape up

By M. Mindy Moretti

The 2010 mid-term elections may not just bring changes to the national political front, with 24 secretary of state positions up for grabs, they could also bring sweeping changes to the world of elections administration.

In addition to the 24 open seats, several secretary of state positions are in limbo based on the outcome of the gubernatorial races in their respective states.

The following is a list of known candidates, whether they've officially announced or made their intentions known through local media outlets.

Alaska — Lt. Gov. Craig Campbell was confirmed by the Alaska legislature in early August after now Gov. Sean Parnell stepped in for former Gov. Sarah Palin. According to the state elections [Web site](#), at press time no candidate has filed for the 2010 race.

Alabama — In April Secretary of State [Beth Chapman](#) announced her bid for re-election. Chapman was first elected to the position in 2006. There are no other known candidates at this time.

Arizona — Ken Bennett was appointed secretary of state in January 2009 after then-Secretary Jan Brewer was appointed Governor. To-date, the only announced candidate is [Sam Wercinski](#), a Phoenix-area Democrat and former state real estate commissioner.

Arkansas — Secretary of State Charlie Daniels is term-limited and running for state auditor. Currently there are three announced candidates to fill the position: Mark Wilcox, Land Commissioner; Pat O'Brien, Pulaski County Circuit Clerk; and Doris Tate, Sebastian County Clerk.

California — Current Secretary of State [Debra Bowen](#) has announced her re-election campaign and to-date has only one active challenger [Audra Strickland](#), a state assemblywoman and former middle-school teacher.

Colorado — Secretary of State [Bernie Buescher](#) was appointed in December 2008 by Governor Bill Ritter. So far two potential candidates have come forward. Denver elections attorney [Scott Gessler](#) (R) is a confirmed candidate and Arapahoe County Clerk [Nancy Doty](#) (R) who was just re-elected to her position in 2008, has expressed interest in running.

Connecticut — Susan Bysiewicz joins the ranks of secretaries of state running for higher office as she pursues the governor's seat in 2010. At press-time there are no known candidates for the secretary of state seat.

Georgia — like her northern counterpart, Secretary of State Karen Handel is running for governor, and the field is wide open in Georgia with a handful of candidates that have already made their intentions known. [Brian Kemp](#) (R), former state senator and state agriculture commissioner candidate, [Doug MacGinnitie](#) (R), Sandy Springs City Commissioner, [Gary Horlacher](#) (D), attorney and former gubernatorial press secretary and [Michael Mills](#) (D), public relations executive.

Idaho — the seat is currently held by [Ben Ysursa](#) who was first elected in 2002. There are currently no known candidates for the position.

Indiana — incumbent Secretary of State Todd Rokita is term-limited and so far two candidates have stepped forward to vie for the open seat. [Charlie White](#) (R) is a town councilman in Fishers and [Tom McKenna](#) (D), former Indiana Department of Commerce executive director. Also in the race is [Vop Osili](#).

Iowa — current Secretary of State [Michael Mauro](#) is seeking his second term in office and Council Bluffs city councilmember [Michael Schultz](#) has announced an exploratory committee

Kansas — Secretary of State Ron Thornburg is not seeking re-election and to-date there are three potential candidates: [J.R. Claeyes](#) (R), former lobbyist and international elections observer, [Kris Kobach](#) (R) former chair of the state GOP, and [Chris Biggs](#), former state securities commissioner.

Massachusetts — incumbent [Bill Galvin](#) has been in office since 1995 and has plans to run again in 2010. There are currently no known candidates opposing Galvin.

Michigan — current Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land is not only term-limited, but she is also running for lieutenant governor which leaves the field wide open, but quickly filling up: [Cameron Brown](#) (R), state senator and former St. Joseph County Commissioner, [Judy Emmons](#) (R), former state representative, [Michelle McManus](#), state senator, [Anne Norlander](#) (R), Calhoun County clerk, [Joceyln Benson](#) (D), law school professor and [Janice Winfrey](#) (D), Detroit City clerk.

Minnesota — so far, the only known announced candidate for secretary of state is incumbent [Mark Ritchie](#).

Nebraska — in late September, incumbent [John Gale](#) announced his intentions to seek re-election. To-date he is the only known candidate for the seat. Gale had originally said he would not seek an additional term.

Nevada — there are currently no known candidates for secretary of state, including the incumbent Ross Miller.

New Mexico — currently only incumbent [Mary Herrera](#) has indicated that she will seek a second term as secretary of state.

North Dakota — to-date there are no known candidates for secretary of state.

Ohio — incumbent Jennifer Brunner is running for the U.S. Senate thus leaving the field wide open. To-date the candidates are: [Jennifer Garrison](#) (D), state house minority leader, [John Husted](#) (R), state senator, and [Sandy O'Brien](#) (R), for Ashtabula County auditor. [Marilyn Brown](#), Franklin County commissioner [pulled out](#) of the race this week.

Rhode Island — to-date there are no known/announced candidates for secretary of state.

South Dakota — incumbent Chris Nelson, who is term-limited, [announced this](#) week that he will seek a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. Current Deputy Secretary of State [Teresa Bray](#) is the only announced candidate.

Vermont — with incumbent Deb Markowitz running for governor, there are two active candidates for secretary in Vermont: [Charlie Merriman](#) (D), an attorney and zoning board chair and [Chris Roy](#) (R), an attorney and Williston Selectman.

Wyoming — currently the only known candidate for secretary of state is incumbent [Max Maxfield](#).

Information was gathered from state elections' Web sites, media accounts and uselections.com. ElectionlineWeekly is tracking these races and will keep readers updated throughout the election cycle. If you are a candidate for secretary of state that is not on this list, or know of a candidate not on this list, please let us know (mmoretti@pewtrusts.org).

II. Election Reform News This Week

- [Thomas E. Perez was finally confirmed by the Senate](#) this week to head up the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division. The 72-22 bipartisan vote came more than six months after President Barack Obama nominated Perez, the former Labor, Licensing and Regulation secretary for the state of Maryland. The Senate Judiciary Committee cleared his nomination in early June, but Perez was delayed by Republicans who have blocked action on a number of nominees for key Justice Department positions and federal judgeships. Alabama Sen. Jeff Sessions, the senior Republican on the Judiciary committee, who voted against Perez, expressed concern that the Marylander would not be able to put aside his liberal Democratic beliefs in his new job. Sessions said he also feared that Perez, the son of immigrants from the Dominican Republic and the highest ranking Latino in Maryland government, shared the "extreme" views of Casa de Maryland, an immigrant advocacy group whose board he once headed. Maryland Senator Benjamin Cardin, who helped shepherd the nomination, said that, under Perez, the Civil Rights Division would get "back on track" after a period of abuses during the Bush years. Obama and Attorney General Eric Holder have signaled their intention to reinvigorate the Civil Rights Division, whose 300 lawyers enforce laws prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, sex, disability, religion and national origin. They also oversee voting rights cases, which are likely to increase after next year's census and the resulting redistricting.
- A [federal audit of the Iowa secretary of state's office](#) has found questionable spending totaling \$2.5 million of roughly \$30 million that the state's elections division received from the federal government while Gov. Chet Culver was secretary of state. In particular, auditors questioned more than \$1.2 million in spending related to a 2005 promotion to celebrate voting and milestones of voting rights. "Just because we question the cost does not mean the state owes the money back," Curtis Crider, inspector general for the U.S. Election Assistance Commission told the *Des Moines Register*. Crider said Iowa officials will have the opportunity to respond to the questions before a determination is made about possible repayment. Phil Roeder, a spokesman for Culver, told the paper the state would work with the commission to answer questions and note areas where there was disagreement. "While some issues in the EAC report have already been settled, there are also several points of disagreement, and the state will continue to work with the EAC to resolve these differences," Roeder said, referring to the Election Assistance Commission.
- The [Council of the District of Columbia gave preliminary approval to an elections reform package](#) that would not only allow early voting and election-day registration, but would also set up a review committee to look into universal voter registration. In addition, the measure would require a verifiable paper trail and would allow 17 year olds to vote in a primary if they turn 18 by the general election. The bill would also allow 16 year olds to pre-register. Critics of Cheh's proposal are raising concerns it could lead to voter fraud. But Cheh noted Milwaukee and several other big cities allow same-day registration. "The evidence shows same registration can improve voter participation and access," Cheh told *The Washington Post*. "Let's be very clear, there is no empirical evidence that same-day registration has any connection to fraud."

III. Research and Report Summaries

electionline provides brief summaries of recent research and reports in the field of election administration. Please e-mail links to research to sgreene@pewtrusts.org.

[NASS Report: Maintenance of State Voter Registration Lists: A Review of Relevant Policies and Procedures](#) – Developed by the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS), September 2009: NASS summarizes the requirements of all 50 states and the District of Columbia's for maintaining voter

registration information. Four specific areas are covered: (1) new voter registration verification; (2) identification of voters who no longer reside where they are registered to vote; (3) criteria for removing names from the voter list; and, (4) processes for obtaining the names of voters who are no longer eligible to vote.

[2008 Statutory Overview](#) – The Election Assistance Commission (EAC), September 2009: As part of its biennial Election Administration Survey, the EAC has released its 2008 review of state laws related to election administration including voter registration databases, voter ID, provisional voting and polling place operations.

[A Review of Academic Literature on the Effectiveness of the National Voter Registration Act \(NVRA\)](#) - Jody Herman, Douglas R. Hess, and Margaret Groarke, Project Vote, September 2009: Project Vote provides an annotated bibliography of the NVRA, including predictions of its impact, evaluations of its impact, and other related literature.

[Voting Rights in Indian Country](#) - A Special Report of the Voting Rights Project of the American Civil Liberties Union, September 2009: The ACLU reviews the history of Indian voting rights and how those rights were affected by the Voting Rights Act. More compliance with the Act is encouraged to allow more meaningful participation in the voting process. The report states that challenges Indian voters face can be addressed with additional voter education, improved voter registration efforts, and when necessary, litigation.

[E-Voting and Identity](#) - Second International Conference, VOTE-ID 2009, Luxembourg, September 7-8, 2009: These 11 chapters contain papers from the proceedings at the Second International Conference on E-voting and Identity. They include proposals for high-assurance voting systems, evaluations of existing systems and an assessment of public response to electronic voting.

IV. Opinion

National: [Instant runoff-voting](#); [Voter registration](#)
Alaska: [Get-out-the-vote](#)
California: [Young voters](#)
Florida: [Voting-machine sale, II](#); [Cost of elections](#)
Michigan: [Secretary of State](#)
Mississippi: [Voter ID](#)
Ohio: [Secretary of state](#)
Tennessee: [Voting machines, II](#); [Ballot integrity](#)
Utah: [Voter ID](#)
Virginia: [Military and overseas voters](#)

***some sites require registration*

V. Job Opportunities

All job listings must be received by 12 p.m. Eastern on Wednesday for publication in our Thursday newsletter. Job listings are free but may be edited for length. Whenever possible, include Internet information. Please email job postings to mmoretti@electionline.org

Business Development/Sales Manager (two positions)— *Scytl USA Secure Electronic Voting* located in Richmond, Virginia and its parent *Scytl S.A.* located in Barcelona, Spain are rapidly emerging as the global leader in the development of secure electronic voting solutions for the public and private sectors. Associates of *Scytl USA* enjoy an entrepreneurial setting, competitive salary, continuous development and education, career advancement opportunities, and a great team environment. Reporting directly to the Managing Director, *Scytl USA*, the candidates will: Build and execute company business plan for achieving revenue and pipeline objectives; identification and prospecting of new business leads, including qualification and needs assessment; build and maintain regional sales opportunity pipeline utilizing

company CRM tools; presentation and positioning of Scytl USA's solutions and services to prospective State and Local Election Administrators/Officials, and State Legislators; supporting the development of effective proposals and closing new business; adhering to Scytl USA's selling methodology for developing sales pipeline; maintaining direct client relationships and building new business relationships; and providing market and legislative feedback internally concerning the effectiveness of Scytl's core products and consulting services. **Requirements:** Bachelor's degree in Business Administration or Engineering (e.g., Computer Science); proven 10+ years experience in state and local government technology sales – preferably in election related products and services; software familiarity expertise in the following technologies – Web based applications/Cryptography (SSL, PKI, digital certificates and signatures...); excellent communications skills – must have strong oral presentation experience; advanced user experience in Microsoft Office, specifically Power Point, Word and Excel; and ability to travel. Scytl USA is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Please visit us at www.scytl.com to learn more about how we are revolutionizing the secure online voting environment. **To apply**, please send a cover letter and resume to the following (email accepted): Hugh Gallagher, Managing Director; Scytl USA; 6012 Glen Abbey DR; Suite 1L; Richmond, Virginia 23059; ScytlUSA@scytl.com