



Secretary of State Voter Guide

Why would you be the best Secretary of State candidate for the small business community?

Many Michigan businesses depend on the Secretary of State to register their company vehicles. Thus, efficient SoS services are necessary for these companies to thrive. Additionally, auto dealer and auto repair facilities need an SoS who when conducting inspections function as a partner helping business owners, instead of an adversary seeking to punish them issuing outrageous fines. I reject fee increases, especially the governor's push to increase the fee for commercial entities to pull an MVR.

During the pandemic, we heard from business owners with vehicle fleets and employees with CDLs that they had a hard time getting renewals done in a timely fashion. What have we learned during those days and how can the Secretary of State be adjusted to better serve the small business community? We learned that allowing for as many services to be done online as possible is critically beneficial. Additionally, the SoS branch offices were closed for too long. This created a backlog of work, and many business owners were penalized with late fees. The SoS should have waived all late fees for that time period, considering the situation was beyond the individual business owner's control. Also, the COVID funds the SoS received should be responsibly spent on helping to respond to the changes COVID created

What can be done to streamline services for the small business community? There is technology available that functions as a virtual assistant speeding up document processing time, that would get SoS services done in a timely fashion. Additionally, we pay too much for SoS services, considering that only 7% of what the SoS generates in revenue is actually needed to run the department there is obviously opportunity to lowering fees.

What is working the best and what are the areas in most need of improvement regarding services to small businesses? Online services are beneficial, and we need to maintain those options. We must have both appointment and walk-in services available for convenience. Businesses may have opportunities or changes that may occur at the last minute and need the flexibility of walk-in services, which some branch offices are not offering. Additionally, Michigan needs to be a tax deferential state regarding vehicle sales. We need unique dealer license available for businesses who do not need a physical lot, because the unique vehicles they sell transactions are done online. Additionally, we need regional locations that are available to serve IRP customers, so they don't have to drive to Lansing to register their fleet. We must partner with our legislator to develop a solution that would allow IRP plates to be transferable.

How do you/will you plan to gain insights on the small business community and their needs? There must be liaisons who are stationed regionally, to be in touch with the needs of the business community. The SoS needs a trusted team, who are responsive to our business communities ensuring that I'm always aware of their needs. Protecting our small business community, is essential for our economy and the overall viability of our state. This cannot happen without a competent team of liaisons who are in regular communications with our business community

What role could the Secretary of State play in improving the interface between the small business community and state government?

We want to improve the SoS website, to ensure that it is user friendly. Also as mentioned in the response to the previous questions solving many issues require positive relationships, that often times get destroyed when moving towards more automated solutions. Nuanced understanding is only achieved with human relationships. This is why a responsive team of liaisons are needed not just to assist the business community to be compliant with SoS requirements, but also with respective industry changes there may be things we as the state government can do on our end, to help that business grow.

What best practices from other states could be implemented here in Michigan? Many other states allow for local businesses to provide certain government required vehicle related services. Like DNR does in Michigan with hunting licenses. I would like to see businesses like insurance agencies be allowed to register vehicles and renew plates. That would cut down on wait times in SoS branch offices, also this could help local businesses generate revenue. As previously mentioned, Michigan should be a tax deferential state for vehicles.