

SECRETARY OF STATE



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Jesse White (Democrat) was first elected Secretary of State in 1998 and re-elected in 2002 by winning all 102 counties and garnering more than 2.3 million votes. On Nov. 7, 2006, White was re-elected to a third term receiving 63 percent of the vote statewide.

White has brought integrity and innovation to the Secretary of State's office. He managed the largest distribution of new license plates in state history, fought for tougher DUI laws, reformed the Commercial Driver's License program, overhauled the Parking Program for Persons with Disabilities and created the office's first online services. White also strengthened his Inspector General's office, giving it more investigative authority.

Because motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death among people ages 15 to 20, White initiated a new law in 2006 that doubled the number of supervised hours teens must drive before getting a driver's license. He also commissioned the Teen Driver Safety Task Force, which issued a report recommending nine changes to teen driving

laws. In January 2007, White introduced legislation based on their findings.

The Secretary of State's Organ/Tissue Donor Program is a model for other states. White's successful first-person consent legislation, effective January 2006, created the new Organ/Tissue Donor Registry (www.LifeGoesOn.com), making a person's wishes to be a donor legally binding. Family consent is no longer required for donation to occur.

Prior to becoming Secretary of State, White served in the Illinois General Assembly for 16 years and was Cook County Recorder of Deeds from 1992 to 1998. In 1959, he founded the internationally acclaimed Jesse White Tumbling Team, and has spent the last 48 years working with the team to keep at-risk youth in school and drug-free.

White earned his B.S. degree from Alabama State College (now Alabama State University), and served our country as a paratrooper in the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division and as a member of the Illinois National Guard. He played professional baseball with the Chicago Cubs organization, followed by a 33-year career as a teacher and administrator in Chicago public schools. Born in Alton, Illinois, White now lives on Chicago's near north side.

Office of the Secretary of State

The Secretary of State's office is the largest and most diverse office of its kind in the nation, providing more direct services to Illinois citizens than any other public agency. The office issues vehicle license plates and titles; registers corporations; enforces the Illinois Securities Act; administers the Organ/Tissue Donor Program; and licenses drivers and maintains driver records. As State Librarian, White oversees the State Library and literacy programs, and as State Archivist, he maintains records of legal and historic value.