



A message from Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White

Once again, it is a pleasure to present the people of Illinois with the latest edition of the *Illinois Blue Book* — the state's official manual.

First published in 1861, the *Illinois Blue Book* is a nationally recognized source of information about our state's executive, judicial and legislative branches of government. Called "the most nearly complete of all state manuals" by the Council of State Governments, the *Blue Book* has a tradition of excellence that we strive to maintain. However, compilation of this biennial publication would not be possible without the dedicated efforts of many hardworking men and women in every branch of State Government. I thank everyone who contributed to making the 2003-2004 *Illinois Blue Book* a complete and up-to-date source of information about Illinois Government.

As in past years, the information in the *Blue Book* was selected to provide elected officials an easy-to-use directory of State Government, as well as offer students, educational institutions and the general public a uniquely comprehensive reference tool. In addition to information on state legislators, the *Blue Book* includes a list of toll-free state telephone numbers, an updated listing of Illinois News Media, with contact numbers for more than 1,000 media outlets in the state, and official portraits and biographies of Illinois' elected officials.

New this year is a four-page color spread highlighting some of Illinois' "lesser-known" historic sites, a feature about the renaming of the Illinois State Library, a special two-page memorial to the late U.S. Senator Paul Simon and an updated Official State Symbols section, including Illinois' new official snack – popcorn. In addition, the title pages showcase some of Illinois' famous and not-so-famous attractions to give readers an idea of the depth and breadth of what Illinois has to offer the viewing public.

As Secretary of State and on behalf of the people of Illinois, I dedicate this 2003-2004 *Illinois Blue Book* to America's servicemen and women who risk their lives each day to promote freedom and democracy around the world.

Jesse White

JESSE WHITE
Secretary of State