



# Secretary of State

Jason M. Gant

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January 31, 2013

South Dakota Legislature  
Joint Committee on Appropriations  
The Honorable Fred Romkema, Co-Chairman  
The Honorable Deb Peters, Co-Chairman  
500 East Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Representative Romkema and Senator Peters:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a brief summary of the Secretary of State's budget.

The highlight of the Secretary of State's budget is the requested \$13,000 decrease, or the equivalent of a 5% cut of the general fund operating budget.

The only increases in the budget are from the Governor regarding increase in salary policy, health insurance, computer services, and rent.

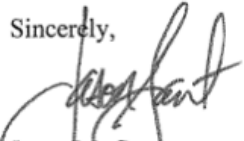
I have compiled these answers to your questions regarding significant activities:

1. Upon the resignation of the Director of Elections this past summer, I hired an Interim Director of Elections in August of 2012. Payouts of personal leave are based off of the policy of the Bureau of Human Resources and we follow those regulations. This office has a very limited salary budget and when resources are not available the position is left open until the resources are available again and that is the procedure that was used.
2. The annual report online filing system has been an outstanding success for the South Dakota business community. By utilizing an automatic email reminder system to notify customers that their reports are due, savings have been generated in printing and postage costs. Due to this successful system, the office is able to cut \$13,000 from the office budget or the equivalent of a 5% cut of the general fund operating budget.
3. The litigation costs for the office in FY 13, have been \$3,921.95 in payments to the Attorney General's office for the Brooks v. Gant lawsuit.

<b>Administration</b>	<b>Corporations</b>	<b>Uniform Commercial Code</b>
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4. A brief status report on the annual report online filing project is that 86% of all South Dakota corporations are utilizing the online filing option. It is very encouraging to have so many customers use the system.
5. A brief status report on the new corporate online system is that it will be available very soon to allow all new corporations to have the option to file their documents online. South Dakota will now be able to better compete with other states in ensuring that the corporate filing system is a simple process.
6. A brief status report on the election systems utilized is that the new system TotalVote will save counties each year in election expenses. TotalVote is comprised of all election systems including voter registration, ballot creation, military voting, absentee tracking, sample ballots, election night results, etc.
7. The federal funds utilized by the office are funds from the Help America Vote Act of 2002. These funds are used to grant funds to counties for certain allowable federal election expenses. These funds are all received and held in the state account and we are not waiting on additional annual or ongoing appropriations from the federal government.

I am looking forward to discussing the success the office has had over the past two years and to your questions regarding the FY 2014 budget.

Sincerely,  
  
Jason M. Gant  
Secretary of State