

**Indiana Secretary of State Connie Lawson
Fellowship Program
Summer 2015**



About Secretary of State Connie Lawson

Connie Lawson is Indiana's 61st Secretary of State. As Indiana's Chief Elections Official, she is focused on ensuring integrity and security for our state's elections. Since taking office, Secretary Lawson championed the most sweeping election reforms since photo ID, and has led the effort to clean Indiana's voter rolls. Secretary Lawson educates Hoosiers about smart money decisions and fights for stringent penalties for white collar criminals. She has also partnered with Indiana's motor vehicle industry to ensure the best possible customer service, including prompt title delivery. Secretary Lawson is directing substantial innovation and leveraging cutting edge technology to improve how businesses interact with government.



Prior to serving as Secretary of State, Lawson served in the Indiana Senate for sixteen years, where she accomplished significant legislative success. Respected across the aisle, she quickly earned the admiration of her colleagues and made history in 2006 when she was selected as the first woman to serve as Majority Floor Leader in the Indiana Senate. Lawson also served as Clerk of the Hendricks County Circuit Court for eight years.

As a public servant, Lawson has been a true inspiration to women in government, an agent of change for Indiana counties and a determined advocate for the prevention of diseases that would rob us of our loved ones. She has been recognized as one of the Indianapolis Business Journal's Women of Influence and she received the Zup's Imagination Award for her service to United Way of Central Indiana.

About the Office



The Office of Secretary of State is one of five constitutional officers originally designated in Indiana's State Constitution of 1816. Sixty-one Hoosiers have served as the third highest-ranking official in state government.

Historically the duties of the office included the maintenance of state records and preservation of the state seal, but as state government expanded so did the responsibilities of the Secretary of State. Present duties include chartering of new business, regulation of the securities industry, oversight of state elections, commissioning of notaries public, registration of trademarks and licensing of vehicle dealerships throughout Indiana.

About the Fellowship

The Indiana Secretary of State Fellowship program is an opportunity for a college sophomore, junior or senior to work with Secretary of State Connie Lawson and her team. The fellowship will last 12 weeks during which time the fellow will work directly with key staff members gaining valuable hands-on experience working on special projects and initiatives. Fellows will rotate through multiple areas of the office, giving them the opportunity to work on a wide variety of projects expanding their experience and knowledge. Students take from the fellowship a solid understanding of the workings of government as well as experience in a variety of areas.

Eligibility

The Indiana Secretary of State Fellowship Program is open to any college students at a sophomore standing or higher. Candidates must have maintained a grade point average of 3.0 or higher to be considered.

Selection

Applications and attached materials will be reviewed individually. Application materials are due by March 1, 2015. Interviews will begin the week of March 16, 2015.

Application Materials

To be considered, applications must include the following materials:

- Completed application
- Current transcript
- Required essays and writing sample
- Two letters of recommendation
- Current resume

Application

Personal Information

Name	
Current Address	Current City, State and Zip
Permanent Address (if different from above)	Permanent City, State and Zip (if different)
Phone Number	Email Address

Education

Institution	
Location	Current Grade Point Average
Major	Minor
Honors	Extracurricular Activities

Work Experience

Name of Organization/Company	
Location	Dates Employed
Position	
Responsibilities	

Name of Organization/Company	
Location	Dates Employed
Position	
Responsibilities	

Writing Sample

Please include a brief response to the questions below. Also, please attach a writing sample.

1. What do you see as the greatest challenge facing the State of Indiana? What role can or should the government play in confronting this challenge?

2. What do you feel is the most important function of the Secretary of State’s office? Why?

Letters of Recommendation

Two letters of recommendation must be submitted with the application. List the names and positions of the references below.

Reference	Position
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