



OFFICIAL MANUAL
STATE *of* MISSOURI
2011–2012

ROBIN CARNAHAN
SECRETARY *of* STATE



Ryan Hobart, Editor

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
STATE OF MISSOURI
JEFFERSON CITY 65101

Dear Fellow Missourians,

I am pleased to present you with the 2011–2012 Official Manual of the State of Missouri. For the first time, this year's "Blue Book" will be available solely online in an electronic format. This change complies with the Missouri Legislature's decision to discontinue publication of a hardcover version of the Blue Book.

In preparing this "electronic Blue Book," we not only provide Missourians with the same valuable information about our local, state and federal governments that they have come to expect, but we do so in an easy to use, printer-friendly format that can be easily downloaded onto any computer. In addition, just as we have done in the past, this electronic Blue Book includes historical essays and pictures that help preserve our state's heritage and remind us of our shared history.

One thing I'm always struck by when reading about events in Missouri history is how our state and our people have, over and over again, been tested...and persevered in the most trying times. Rebuilding communities after the brutal clashes of the Civil War, fighting to hold on to the family farm during the great depression — time and again, Missourians find ways to endure and grow stronger.

Over the past year, we have seen that same spirit of resilience across the state. During the summer of 2011, parts of the City of Joplin were struck by one of the most devastating tornados in American history. St. Louis County also sustained serious tornado damage, and northwest and southeast Missouri experienced pervasive flooding. Almost every Missourian knows someone who suffered through these hardships. But it is the reaction of our people in the face of adversity that really shows what Missourians are made of...because within hours our people pitched in to help. They helped by volunteering, collecting donations of food, clothing and housing, and contributed countless other selfless acts to lend a hand to a neighbor in need.

One image that particularly stands out is that of a Joplin police officer carrying a young girl out of the tornado wreckage. When asked by the Joplin Globe about what was going through his mind, the officer said, "You just do what you know has to be done."

Just doing what has to be done...those words of perseverance are worth remembering as we all look for ways to continue rebuilding our communities and helping our neighbors in need.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robin Carnahan".

Robin Carnahan
Secretary of State



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