

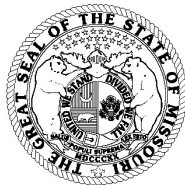


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# OFFICIAL MANUAL

## STATE OF MISSOURI

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**JOHN R. ASHCROFT**  
SECRETARY OF STATE

**Endsheet Images**

**Front:** Virginia Minor Portrait and Suffrage Meeting in Marthasville 1914.

**Back:** Women Voting and Marie Byrum, First Woman Voter.



Dear Fellow Missourians,

We are pleased to present the 2019–2020 Missouri Official Manual. Every two years since 1878, the Office of the Secretary of State has compiled the most comprehensive list of information and statistics of our state's history and its public servants. Within the Official Manual, you will find information on federal and state government officials, state and county agencies, elections, political parties, media, state personnel and other individuals and entities.

This volume celebrates the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment which guarantees women the right to vote. The women of Missouri were instrumental in overcoming this struggle. For many decades, from Kansas City to St. Louis, women who wanted a say in their government fought for that right.

The Official Manual's feature article was researched and written by staff of the Missouri State Archives, and they provided every historical photograph and depiction included in this book from front cover to back cover. The images will lead you through time as Governor Frederick Gardner signed the resolution in 1919 and Missouri became the 11th state to ratify the amendment.

I have been blessed to have strong, brave women guiding me during my life. My mother, Janet Ashcroft, taught me the value of faith, family and hard work. My wife, Katie, has been by my side throughout many of life's struggles. She is the strongest woman I know, and every day I thank God for His blessing. If my mother and Katie had lived during the struggle for women's suffrage, I have no doubt they would have worked tirelessly alongside those brave women, fighting to have a voice in their government. My father and I would have stood right there beside them.

Sincerely,

John R. Ashcroft  
Secretary of State

#### Special Thanks

Secretary of State Publications Division – Julie Stegeman, Alyssa Harker, Jacob Schloss, Nick Omland and Randy Wright for your commitment to this volume's production and accuracy.





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