

02/20/2018

Greetings Fortieth District!

I hope you and your loved ones had an enjoyable President's Day. This week, I am reminded of one of my favorite and compelling biographies "Washington," by Douglas Southall Freeman. Reflecting on the writing of George Washington whether in his letters or his famous farewell address of September 17, 1796, his wisdom is still to be rivaled to this day. Abigail Adams once said, "take his character altogether and we shall not look upon his like again," about George Washington and I believe that still holds true. Happy Birthday President Washington.

Election Security

Serving District 40 continues to be one of my life's greatest pleasures and when asked by a constituent about certain issues that matter to them, I make it my mission to seek out an answer and bring them a response. One question, came to me via a typed letter in the mail that I thought would be great to share with you "Loopers." The topic of the letter was regarding the election security of Tennessee and how we protect our state's election infrastructure.

The General Assembly has given several tools in state law to help identify and remove ineligible voters. Specifically, there is cross-referencing of the National Change of Address data from the United States Postal Service and county elections commissions who send notices to these voters who have moved out of the county and or out of state, is routinely done in order to keep our ballot box secure and current. Also, there are tax records and data kept by Department of Motor vehicles that tighten up the voter rolls as well. Concerning deceased voters, Tennessee constantly compares the voter roll to available lists of deaths provided by the Tennessee Office of Vital Records and information purchased by the death information from the Social Security Administration. Tennessee also checks for non-U.S. citizens by comparing data with the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security.

In 2009, shortly after Secretary Hargett's appointment, thousands of felons or deceased voters who were still on the voting rolls were removed. Protecting data transfers, modernizing infrastructure and voting machines, plus keeping voting information current is not an easy task; however, under Secretary Hargett's watch our state is vigilant to ensure our system is secure and modern.

Last Friday @Coffee Conversations in Carthage, we discussed considering legislation to make the first Tuesday of November not only voting day, but also a holiday. In lieu of the low turnout of voters across our state compared to the number of registered voters, perhaps closing businesses would be two-fold. It could bring more awareness of the importance of voting and give those who work long hours the opportunity to go vote. Stats show early voting is favored by many and gives flexible windows of time to cast your vote. Back in the day though, I remember when all businesses pulled the shade and left a notice, "Closed. Gone to vote." Something to think about.

Online Voter Registration

Please note Tennessee's new online voter registration system. It's easy and convenient. [click here](#). Since launching the online voter registration, 9,887 have updated their names or addresses online and 7,287 Tennesseans have registered to vote.

Legislation on the Move

This week I will present HB2682 which requires the Governor to highly consider military veterans to serve on Boards of State Institutions of higher education. HB2688 amends current law that allows the state treasurer to invest in bonds, notes and treasury bills. Passage of this bill would allow a state agency to invest in government-sponsored enterprises that were created by the U.S. Congress to enhance the flow of credit. HB1829 designates the last full week of February each year as "Tennessee Songwriters Week," promoting Tennessee's musical heritage by recognizing contributions of past and present songwriters of this state.

Blessings,
Terri Lynn Weaver