Quarterly Business Report

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Second Quarter 2012

Dear Business Leader:

Unifying state agencies and offering a central location for businesses seeking licensing; utilizing the latest in technology to bring resources to customers; overseeing one election and preparing for the next; and protecting innocent victims of fraudulent scams summarize the activity of the 2nd quarter of 2012 in my office.

The Nevada Business Portal is currently being tested by select users during the pilot phase. When the website is launched publicly during the next quarter, it will streamline processes and reduce the amount of time entrepreneurs and business owners spend applying for new licenses and maintaining their existing licenses.

Along with the Nevada Business Portal, my office recently created a Business Entity Search app available to iPad, iPhone, and iPod users. Download the app for free and have access to our public database anywhere you go.

The Elections Division is in the midst of a busy presidential election year, and they are working alongside county clerks and registrars of voters to ensure smooth experiences for Nevada registered voters. Prior to the general election, all Nevadans will be able to register to vote at www.registertovotenv.gov and make changes to their profile at nvsos.gov/votersearch. On Election Day, November 6, up-to-the-minute results will be available at SilverStateElection.com.

The Securities Division continues to fight the escalating problem of fraudulent investment schemes aimed at senior citizens. We issued warnings about popular schemes and continue to make ourselves available to anyone who believes he or she has been duped by deceptive investment opportunities.

Thank you for allowing me to share our news from the 2nd quarter of 2012 and continue to serve you.

Respectfully,

Secretary Miller was the keynote speaker during the American Bar Association's annual conference. He highlighted Nevada's economic development efforts.

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Nevada Business Portal in Pilot Phase, Scheduled for September Launch

The Secretary of State's office is collaborating with other state agencies on a business licensing project, the Nevada Business Portal, which will be publicly launched in a few short weeks. Currently being tested by pilot users, the Nevada Business Portal will be available in September for anyone wishing to start a business in Nevada.

It is Nevada's first online system that consolidates the necessary forms and information needed to start and run a company. By creating a secure and retrievable profile, a consumer's interactions with Nevada governmental agencies will be expedited. The Nevada Business Portal eliminates redundancy and improves accountability by collecting required information once and distributing that information to the appropriate agencies.

The website processes the following licenses:

- **Articles of Incorporation** (Secretary of State)
- **Initial List** (Secretary of State)
- **State Business License** (Secretary of State)
- **Sales and Use Permit** (Department of Taxation)
- **Worker's Comp eAffirmation of Compliance** (Department of Business and Industry)

The Nevada Business Portal collects information referred to as "Common Business Registration Data," which is basic information that nearly every governmental agency throughout Nevada requires. By providing this information through the site, users allow participating state and local agencies to collect and maintain data to begin their respective licensing process. This integrated service saves valuable time by avoiding the need to constantly re-enter duplicative and redundant information while interacting with different governmental agencies.

Future services within the Nevada Business Portal will allow users to process licenses from governmental agencies throughout Nevada, including many other state, county and municipal agencies. The Nevada Business Portal encourages entrepreneurs and existing businesses to concentrate on growing and operating a successful company.

Elections Division Oversees Smooth Primary Election; Bringing Online Voter Registration to All Nevadans

For months, the Elections Division worked closely with all county clerks and registrars of voters to ensure a successful primary election on June 12. Nearly 200,000 voters cast ballots during early voting and on primary election day, which was free of incident.

The Secretary of State's comprehensive reporting website, www.SilverStateElection.com, enabled the public to monitor the official results as reported by election officials statewide throughout the evening of the election. The website features separate tabs for finding results for the U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives, Statewide/ Judicial, State Senate, State Assembly, and local government races.

The percentage of precincts reporting and up-to-the-minute voter turnout numbers are also available. The voter turnout feature allows users to pull up numbers from previ-

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‘Invisible’ Elder Abuse Leaving Seniors Devastated

Secretary of State Urges Victims of Elder Financial Abuse to Report Exploitation

Investment fraud/financial exploitation experts believe that elder financial abuse is worsening, according to a nationwide survey. Nevadans who suspect they are victims of financial elder abuse are encouraged to file a report with the Secretary of State office.

“Elder abuse comes in many forms – physical, emotional, neglect or abandonment – and financial abuse often goes undetected because its warning signs are invisible,” said Secretary Miller, noting that financial abuse is considered to be the most common form of elder abuse, costing its victims an estimated $2.9 billion a year.

Securities Division Chief Criminal Investigator Scott Balder warns an audience about the top 10 investment schemes during a senior fraud awareness program on May 2, 2012.

To help fight this problem, the Secretary of State’s office joins the North American Securities Administrators Association (NASAA) to offer tools to identify and report financial abuse or exploitation. Investment fraud is an area of particular concern, as victims can see their life savings depleted with little opportunity to recover financial stability.

Securities fraud comes in many forms. The following is a list of common frauds targeting elders.

- **Unsuitable Investments** — Securities professionals must not recommend investments that are inappropriate for a customer’s age, risk tolerance and need for access to the money.
- **Ponzi Schemes** — As the number of initial investors grows and the supply of potential new investors dwindles, the Ponzi bubble bursts with the vast majority of investors losing all or most of their money.
- **Affinity Fraud** — In affinity fraud, the senior makes an investment because of a recommendation by a “trusted” friend based on similar backgrounds.
- **Unregistered Investments** — The senior is sold a stake in a new company or enterprise and is told that the investment does not need to be registered with the state or federal government. Check with the Secretary of State’s Securities Division at (702) 486-2440 to determine if an investment needs to be registered.
- **Unlicensed Salespeople** — Those who sell securities or provide investment advice must be appropriately licensed.
- **Free Lunch/Dinner Seminars** — Regulators find the majority of these seminars are actually sales pitches.
- **Senior Designations** — Individuals may call themselves “senior specialists” to create a false level of comfort among seniors and then get them to invest.
- **Any Sales Pitch Accompanied By Pressure Or Coercion**

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 15 spotlighted the growing problem of fraud targeting senior citizens. Investors and caregivers are urged to “investigate before investing” by calling the Secretary of State’s office at (702) 486-2440 to verify if the product and person selling it are registered/licensed and if there have been any complaints.

According to a survey released by Investor Protection Trust (IPT), 84% of the 762 respondents who deal with investment fraud/ financial exploitation believe that elder financial abuse is worsening. The full survey can be found on the IPT website at www.investorprotection.org or by clicking here.

Securities or investment fraud should be reported to the Secretary of State’s Securities Division at (702) 486-2440. Other types of elder abuse should be reported to Nevada’s Aging and Disability Services Division at (702) 486-6930 in Clark County or (888) 729-0571 in all other areas. For tips to recognize elder abuse and ways to protect yourself or loved ones, visit the “Securities Center” tab on the Secretary of State’s website at www.nvsos.gov or by clicking here.

Secretary of State Launches Business Entity Search App

Users can search for information among more than 300,000 entities on file

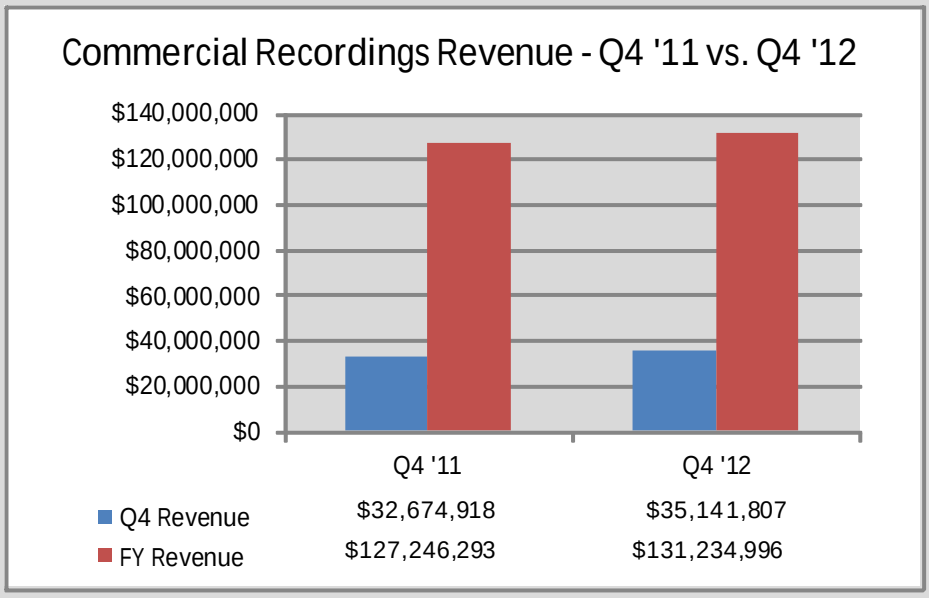
Searching for business entities in Nevada is now easier than ever before with the launch of Secretary Miller's iPhone app Business Entity Search, the first app to be developed by the Secretary of State's office.

"Hundreds of unique visitors utilize our website's business entity search daily, and this free app makes it more convenient for them to access public information on their smartphones or tablets," said Secretary Miller. "My office strives to serve the public in the most efficient way possible, and the latest innovations in technology help us reach our goal."

App users can search for results through various fields and access information on more than 300,000 entities on file with the Secretary of State's office. The search provides the following up-to-date information:

- **Entity:** business name, status, type, file date, entity number, business ID number, and business license expiration date
- **Registered Agent:** name, address, mailing address, agent type, jurisdiction, and status
- **Officer:** names

For more detailed information, the app includes the option to switch to the Secretary of State's primary website, www.nvsos.gov. Business Entity Search is available to iPhone, iPad, and iPod Touch users.



New and renewing business licenses generate an increase in revenue during the second quarter and fiscal year-to-date of 2012 compared to the same period in 2011.

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ous primary and general elections by county to compare to the 2012 turnout. Users also have multiple options for refreshing the site as primary election results are reported.

SilverStateElection.com will be the only place to find official statewide results for the general election on November 6.

The Elections Division has been collaborating with all county clerks and registrars of voters to allow all voters to have electronic access to their information at nvsos.gov/votersearch and for all residents to register to vote online at www.registertovotenv.gov. To date, online voter registration is currently available to residents with DMV-issued identification in all but four counties. Online voter registration will be offered to all remaining Nevada counties prior to the general election.

To utilize the online system, citizens need to be at least 18 years old and have a Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) driver's license or DMV-issued identification card. The application process pulls the signature on file with the DMV and applies it to the voter's registration record, which will then be used for identification for all future elections.

Registered voters can access their voting information at nvsos.gov/votersearch by entering their first and last names, date of birth, and driver's license number or social security number. From there, they can update their address or change their party affiliation without completing a paper application and submitting it to their respective county clerk or registrar of voters.

Residents have until Sunday, Oct. 7 to register online to vote in the general election.

To find information about registering to vote, visit the "Election Center" on the Secretary of State's website, www.nvsos.gov, or by clicking here.

Upcoming Notary Training Classes

Las Vegas
Gold Coast Casino
August 2, 2012 at 8 a.m.

Pre-registration required at
www.nvsos.gov