



STATE OF MICHIGAN
RUTH JOHNSON, SECRETARY OF STATE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
LANSING

Dear Library Director,

I am writing you today about an exciting new partnership between the Secretary of State's office and libraries across Michigan called **ExpressSOS CONNECT – Libraries**. We will be announcing this joint effort on July 10 at the Sterling Heights Public Library and on July 16 at the Lansing Capitol Area District Library. This partnership has the support of the Michigan Library Cooperative organization, the Library of Michigan, Michigan eLibrary (MeL), and the Michigan Library Association. Participation is voluntary, but we would love to have you join this partnership.

We know that libraries are an incredibly valuable resource, at the heart of their communities, and there is no institution better at connecting people with the information they need.

As part of this joint effort, we will highlight libraries as convenient access points for our easy-to-use Secretary of State online services at ExpressSOS.com. We know that many people in your communities, especially in these challenging economic times, have come to rely on their local library to access the Internet. For your users with transportation issues or economic challenges, this will save them time and the trip to their Secretary of State branch.

At the same time, we'll share regular news updates with you and your libraries that may be of interest with your users - from critical election dates and deadlines to information about new driving laws, traffic safety, access to records and critical documents and organ donation.

Our plan is to execute this partnership simply and without incurring any cost to libraries through the use of electronic communication. The idea is to periodically send you short messages, flyers or videos that can then be shared with the public through existing library communication tools. It's that simple. For a fuller understanding of the partnership, my staff has created a [short video](#) for you to view and share with your staff. I've also attached a few tools to help get things started, including:

- An ExpressSOS.com table tent that can be printed in black and white and placed near public access computer stations; and
- An image that can be used as a live link on your website for citizens to access ExpressSOS.com directly (your web team will need to attach the link to it).

Please note that the table tent advises anyone in need of assistance to contact the Secretary of State directly. A toll-free phone number is provided.

Next week, you will receive a window cling that identifies your library as an access point to ExpressSOS.com. We hope you will display it near your primary entrance.

As I mentioned, we will be announcing **ExpressSOS CONNECT – Libraries** on July 10 at the Sterling Heights Library at 3:30 p.m. and on July 16 at the Lansing Capitol Area District Library at 11:00 a.m. I would love to have library directors standing with me during these press conferences as a sign of support for the partnership. I hope you can attend.

Thank you so much for your time and for any help you can provide in strengthening the flow of information to the public through this exciting new partnership.

If you are interested in joining the network and want more information, please feel free to contact Cathleen Simlar at SimlarC@Michigan.gov or Tracy Ward at WardT6@Michigan.gov in our Communications office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ruth A. Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "R".

Ruth Johnson
Michigan Secretary of State