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# NEWS RELEASE

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**Louisiana  
Department of State**



**Tom Schedler  
Secretary of State**

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**P.O. Box 94125  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9125  
[www.sos.la.gov](http://www.sos.la.gov)**



**Meg Casper  
Press Secretary  
225.362.5086  
[meg.casper@sos.la.gov](mailto:meg.casper@sos.la.gov)**

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July 9, 2015

## **SCHEDLER ASSUMES PRESIDENCY OF NATIONAL ASSOCIATION**

**PORTLAND, Maine** – Louisiana Secretary of State Tom Schedler takes the oath of office assuming the presidency of the National Association of Secretary of States (NASS) on Sunday, July 12, 2015 in Portland, Maine. Schedler is attending the 2015 NASS Summer Conference with Lieutenant Governors and Secretaries of State from 34 states across the nation. The conference began on Thursday, July 9, 2015 and will wrap up on Sunday with a Leadership Luncheon during which Schedler will be sworn in.

NASS is the oldest, nonpartisan professional organization of public officials in the United States. Members include the 50 states, the District of Columbia, American Samoa and Puerto Rico. NASS serves as a medium for the exchange of information between states and fosters cooperation in the development of public policy. The association has key initiatives in the areas of elections and voting, state business services and digital archiving, international relations and state securities regulation, as well as several well-established awards programs.

Schedler is only the second Louisiana Secretary of State to hold the Presidency besides Wade O. Martin who served from 1947 to 1948. In his capacity as NASS President, Schedler will also serve on the U.S. Election Assistance Commission's (EAC) Board of Advisors. During his induction ceremony, Schedler plans outline his priorities for the nations' secretaries of state with a hint of Louisiana culture and flare.

"I knew I wanted the final luncheon to be memorable and for my comments to resonate with my colleagues," said Schedler. "Nothing gets folks attention like some good, south Louisiana cuisine, so I'm serving gumbo at the luncheon and providing the group my 'Recipe for Success' which details our organization's priorities for 2016."

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## **PAGE 2 – NASS LEADERSHIP (cont.)**

The Recipe for Success includes:

- Governing with Excellence,
- Unwavering Public Engagement,
- Modernizing Elections,
- Building Business and Economic Growth and
- Operating with Accountability

Schedler is particularly pleased that Louisiana has a recognized track record in many of these areas including creation of the first election information app for smartphones (GeauxVote), the creation of a one-stop business portal (geauxBIZ), recognition from Pew Charitable Trusts for ranking 18<sup>th</sup> in the country for our election system and the implementation of an election technology fund to support the next generation of voting technology in Louisiana.

“I am certainly humbled to be recognized by my colleagues with this significant leadership role,” said Secretary Schedler. “As sitting President of NASS, I have the opportunity to share Louisiana’s excellent record in terms of election administration with other states and also learn best-practices in areas where we might be able to improve or grow.”

Secretary Schedler will also participate on a panel with experts in improving voter participation on Saturday morning. The focus of the discussion will include advice from Schedler on working with 3<sup>rd</sup> party registration groups to both maximize their success while minimizing public concerns including identity theft and privacy.

Additional conference highlights include:

- Bipartisan discussions on state programming and policy initiatives including voter registration and digital learning
- A traveling exhibit commemorating the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Magna Carta, sponsored by the Maine State Archives.
- Workshops on the future of voting technology
- Presentation of the 2015 NASS IDEAS Award, which recognizes excellence in state member office programming and was awarded to Louisiana in 2013 for the GeauxVote Mobile smartphone app

**Secretary Schedler is available for media interviews via phone by contacting Press Secretary Meg Casper at 225-978-6696 or [meg.casper@sos.la.gov](mailto:meg.casper@sos.la.gov). Additionally, b-roll of Secretary Schedler’s induction, generic cover video and an on-camera interview will be posted by Louisiana Hometown Productions and available for download after 4:30 p.m. Sunday, July 12, 2015.**

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