

---

# NEWS RELEASE

---

**Louisiana Department  
of State**



**Tom Schedler  
Secretary of State**

---

**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)**

---

July 2, 2015

## **geauxBIZ PORTAL MAKING BUSINESS IN LOUISIANA EASIER**

BATON ROUGE, La. – Louisiana Secretary of State Tom Schedler says doing business in Louisiana just got easier with a major overhaul of the state’s geauxBIZ.com website. Schedler was joined by Department of Revenue Secretary Tim Barfield and Workforce Commission Executive Secretary Curt Eysink in describing the one-stop portal’s innovative features today emphasizing the site’s ability to instantly streamline Louisiana’s business filing process.

Louisiana’s new geauxBIZ.com portal allows business owners to complete the legal steps necessary to start a business, register for a revenue number and apply for an unemployment insurance tax account number all in one visit to the website. This new system streamlines the registration process significantly for businesses by providing access to multiple agencies, including the Louisiana Secretary of State, the Louisiana Department of Revenue and the Louisiana Workforce Commission, all in one place. The site includes a live chat feature as well as a business license checklist which guides users through all the steps necessary to complete the required filings and provides contact information for the proper permits.

“This is all about improving the business climate in our state,” said Secretary of State Tom Schedler. “Making sure that entrepreneurs can access the information they need, in one convenient location and file online 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for me was a no brainer. Supporting all types of businesses across this state is critically important to the success my office since we legally register companies, but working collaboratively with Revenue and Workforce has resulted in innovative solutions that place a strong focus on customer support. The geauxBIZ.com site is a great example of government getting out of the way so that capitalism can thrive.”

“One of the best aspects of this project was our agencies’ ability to collaborate in the interest of taxpayers,” said Department of Revenue Secretary Tim Barfield. “What citizens will notice almost immediately is that all the resources they need are provided in one place throughout their businesses’ life cycle. The geauxBIZ.com site becomes the hub for information and support critical to the success of companies large and small.”

“By using best practices, we learned from other states that Louisiana has created a business portal that is truly comprehensive,” said Workforce Commission Executive Director Curt Eysink. “Having a live chat function that puts customers in touch with a live person if they need additional assistance is a key component of the site’s success. Our goal was to globally meet the needs of businesses and I think this site does just that.”

-more-

PAGE 2-GEAUXBIZ.COM

Secretary Schedler reports that customers who have used the new site report overwhelmingly positive feedback in follow-up surveys. Ninety-four percent (94%) of respondents said they were able to find the information they needed while 95% said they would recommend the portal to a friend or associate. Schedler believes feedback provided through the survey can continue to guide updates to the [geauxBIZ.com](http://geauxBIZ.com) site and allow all three agencies to anticipate the changing needs of business owners.

The [geauxBIZ.com](http://geauxBIZ.com) website was originally launched in 2009 by the Secretary of State's office as a way to connect citizens to the information necessary to start and maintain a business. Since its implementation, more than 70% of commercial filings are now done using the platform instead of in-person.

"We understood that companies want to do a lot of their business online because it is convenient and easy," said Schedler. "I anticipate continued growth in use of the [geauxBIZ.com](http://geauxBIZ.com) site now that all three agencies are participating. All of the feedback has been enthusiastic and honestly for many, they are shocked Louisiana has such a friendly approach to commerce. It's something we should be very proud of supporting."

###