
NEWS RELEASE

**Louisiana
Department of State**



**Tom Schedler
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**SECRETARY SCHEDLER TO COMPLETE PRESIDENCY
OF NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SECRETARIES OF STATE**

Louisiana Secretary of State Tom Schedler will complete his term as president of the National Association of Secretaries of State this Sunday during that group's annual summer conference in Nashville, Tenn. which begins today. Secretary Schedler officially assumed the presidency last year, but has presided over NASS events since January of 2015 after NASS President and Oregon Secretary of State Kate Brown stepped down to become governor.

"Oregon's Secretary Brown had to unexpectedly leave our winter conference and return to her home state to be sworn in as governor," said Secretary Schedler. "So I stepped in and presided over the event for NASS in 2015, but wasn't officially sworn in until last summer. For some reason, it's been a hallmark of my political career. People I respect ask me to step into leadership positions, and I always do. The pull of public service is strong for me," Schedler stated.

During his tenure as NASS president, Schedler and his secretary of state colleagues have focused their efforts on hosting training sessions for participating states including conferences focusing on information technology and communication strategies. Additionally, NASS assisted states impacted by the Panama Papers by suggesting national solutions using existing resources instead of costly federal legislation that has proven controversial. However, it is NASS' spirit of non-partisan collaboration that has most impressed Schedler.

"More than ever, the efforts of NASS states to cooperate on every issue, in a bipartisan manner, is extremely refreshing," said Schedler. "Through this organization we all have learned from our colleagues and are able to bring best practices back to our states on issues including election administration, commercial filings and archival activities just to name a few. In this leadership role I have also been able to showcase Louisiana programs such as the award-winning GeauxVote Mobile smartphone app and our geauxBIZ commercial portal to our partner states who have in many cases reached out to us for continued advice and guidance," emphasized Schedler.

Schedler is only the second Louisiana secretary of state to become NASS president besides Wade O. Martin who served 36 years as Louisiana's secretary of state and was appointed NASS president from 1947 to 1948. Schedler was first asked to serve on the NASS Executive Board as secretary in 2013 and was later appointed as treasurer in 2014 by Tennessee Secretary of State Tre Hargett, placing Schedler in line for the presidency in 2015.

"Tom has established great working relationships with members from across the country and is viewed as a mentor and valued resource for guidance and information," said Secretary Tre Hargett of Tennessee. "Many of the innovative initiatives being implemented in Louisiana including the award-winning GeauxVote app, online voter registration and emergency preparedness as it relates to elections are of great interest to other secretaries of state and their staffs. One of Tom's best assets is his willingness to share those ideas and information for the betterment of all."

NASS is the oldest, non-partisan 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.

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