

You can find it all inside the Blue Book

State's government,
culture, history featured



**Bill
Moak**

CONSUMER WATCH

Mississippi is a big, vibrant place, changing as constantly as the river for which it's named. To keep up with it all, the Mississippi secretary of state has the job of keeping official records of the Magnolia state.

Last week, Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann rolled out the current edition of the Blue Book, which includes just about everything you'd need to know about Mississippi in its 812 pages.

Want to find out how many incorporated towns are in Jones County? There are four (Ellisville, Laurel, Sandersville and Soso). Want to know where to send mail to the Mississippi Blues Commission? That would be Indianola. But the book is more than just a book of Mississippi trivia; it also contains vital information for educators, businesses and economic developers.

This year's volume is a little heavier than usual, thanks to a special section prepared for Mississippi's bicentennial year. The 59-page section highlights Mississippi history, along with a diverse host of business, medical and creative success stories. They include 29 businesses, 41 business leaders, and figures in sports, literature and the arts.

"Mississippi has come so far in its first 200 years," Hosemann said in a news release. "The faces lining the introductory pages of the Blue Book illustrate our resilience, growth and progress."

A key role of the Blue Book is in keeping an official record of elections. The Blue Book has a listing of all recent federal, state and local election results, along with listings of local, county, state and federal officials. It also has detailed statistics on cities and counties, along with information about transportation, media, census data and climate.

The book is published every four years, after each Mississippi general election. It's been published at least since 1904 (although not always called the Blue Book), and this year Hosemann's office printed 10,000 copies at a cost of \$217,674 for the whole project. Jackson ad agency Maris, West & Baker assisted with design, with Hederman Brothers handling the printing.

"We wanted to show our history and where we're going," Hosemann said. "It's an official stake in the ground for where we can move forward."

Contact Bill Moak at moakconsumer@gmail.com.

Details

» Copies of the printed book are available from the secretary of state's office by calling 601-359-6344 or emailing bluebook@sos.ms.gov.

» A digital version can be viewed or downloaded at <http://bit.ly/2qciuQf>.



ROGELIO V. SOLIS/AP

The 2017 bicentennial version of the "Blue Book" was released Tuesday at the Capitol.