

**OFFICIAL MANUAL
STATE of MISSOURI
2015–2016**

JASON KANDER

SECRETARY of STATE





Dear Fellow Missourians,

I am pleased to present the 2015–2016 Official Manual of the State of Missouri, more commonly known to most Missourians as the “Blue Book.” For more than 130 years, the Blue Book has stood alone as the most comprehensive source of history and information about our state, and I am honored to continue this great tradition with the publication of the second and final volume from my administration.

Missouri’s history and the work of countless public servants, including state employees and elected officials, have been collected in this book every other year since 1878. Within these pages you’ll find extensive information on state government, as well as the names and faces of many folks who work day after day, year after year, to make sure our state government runs smoothly and efficiently.

What better way to honor the history of our state and the hard work of so many than by featuring photos from Missouri’s many parks. No matter if you live in a small town, big city or can’t see a neighbor for miles, you’ve probably enjoyed an afternoon in one of our 87 state parks, or countless municipal and county parks. Parks, in any incarnation, are part of all Missourians’ common heritage and experience.

I’m pleased to dedicate the 2015–2016 “Blue Book” to the many parks that highlight our state’s natural beauty or offer a quiet respite on a busy street. I hope you’ll enjoy the many photographs of Missouri’s parks displayed throughout the following pages, and that they inspire you to visit your favorite park or discover a new one.

Finally, this book represents the work of many talented and dedicated employees in the secretary of state’s office. It takes nearly a year to produce the Blue Book, and this edition would not have been possible without the hard work of Julie Stegeman, Michael Douglas-Llyr, Jamie Crockett, Laura Swinford, Daniel Klote and Stephanie Fleming—thank you for this latest edition of Missouri’s history.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason Kander". The signature is stylized, with the first letters of the first and last names being large and prominent.

Jason Kander
Secretary of State



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