

Preface

The *Tennessee Blue Book* serves as a manual of useful information on our state and government, both past and present. It contains information on the makeup of Tennessee state government, state history, national and state constitutions, most recent election results, and census data.

The *Blue Book* is divided into eight sections. The first three sections are devoted to the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government, also referred to as departments in the Tennessee Constitution. They appear in the order set forth by the state constitution. The book's organization is based on the organizational chart of state government, which appears on the following page.

Section I focuses on the 109th General Assembly, listing the membership of the House of Representatives and Senate and their committees. The General Assembly examines issues affecting Tennesseans and gives guidance necessary for the smooth operation of state government. The General Assembly elects three constitutional officers: the secretary of state, the comptroller of the treasury, and the treasurer. These officials and their departments are featured in this section.

Section II is devoted to the executive branch of government and explains the function of the departments administered by the governor through his appointed commissioners. This section also describes the governor's responsibilities and explores the history and duties of the agencies under his authority.

Section III examines the judicial branch of state government and provides information on the judicial system, courts, and those involved in interpreting state law. The attorney general and reporter is a constitutional officer appointed by the Tennessee Supreme Court.

Section IV features the Tennessee Regulatory Authority and explains its role in advancing the public interest through telecommunications and utilities throughout the state.

Section V presents the Tennessee congressional delegation in the federal government and the United States Constitution.

Section VI contains a cumulative state history, biographies of Tennessee's former governors, state historic sites, state symbols and honors, and the Tennessee Constitution.

Section VII details the results of elections held across the state in 2014 and provides statistical information regarding Tennessee cities and counties.

Section VIII consists of a topical index and a listing of key illustrations, along with credit and or source.

The term "blue book" dates from the 15th century, when the English Parliament began keeping its records in large volumes covered with blue velvet. Since that time, the name "Blue Book" has been used to describe many forms of government manuals. The *Tennessee Blue Book and Official Directory* was first published in 1929. Its predecessor, *The Official and Political Manual of the State of Tennessee*, was first published by the Office of the Secretary of State in 1890.