

## Welcome to Alabama

Two esteemed local leaders from Alabama will provide welcoming remarks to the National Assessment Governing Board. Alabama Secretary of State John Merrill and Montgomery Mayor Todd Strange will discuss their roles and relevant work, and answer questions from Board members. Biographies are below.



**John Merrill** is Alabama Secretary of State. Merrill has had an extensive career in public service. He represented District 62 in the Alabama House of Representatives from 2010-14. Previously he was director of community relations and community education for the Tuscaloosa County Board of Education, assistant director of the Tuscaloosa County Industrial Development Authority, director of business development for the Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama, and business development officer for First Federal Bank in Tuscaloosa.



**Todd Strange** is Mayor of the City of Montgomery. Prior to being elected in 2009, Strange served as chairman of the Montgomery County Commission for five years. He is the former president, CEO, and co-owner of Blount Strange Automotive Group. Strange was the director of the Alabama Development of Commerce and is former senior vice president of administration at Blount International, Ltd. and former president and CEO of Blount Development Corporation.