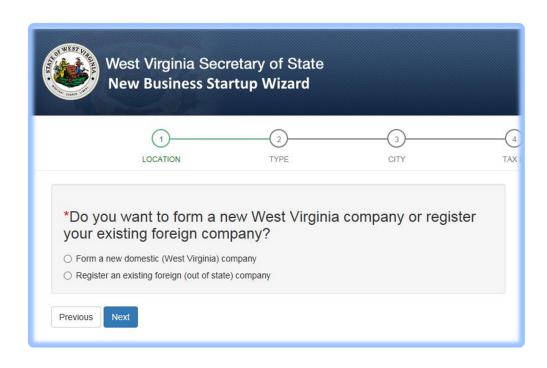
# Minority Business Expo – Virtual Business Services in West Virginia



West Virginia Secretary of State's Office

# Award-Winning Business Start Up Wizard

The WV Business Start Up Wizard has won 2 National Awards



A web-based application that provides assistance with determining business structure formation

https://apps.wv.gov/sos/bizwiz



# Business Start Up Wizard

The business registration process can be daunting when you do not know where to start, and the West Virginia Secretary of State's Office has created a valuable new tool to help!

- The new online tool is available through the West Virginia One Stop Business Portal and aims to simplify the business registration process in West Virginia.
- The tool is referred to as the Business Startup Wizard and can be accessed at https://business4.wv.gov.
- The Business Startup Wizard is an interactive tool that provides information and guidance to assist with the planning and registration process in order to efficiently and successfully get a business up and running in West Virginia.

- The Business Startup Wizard guides the beginning entrepreneur through an easy to follow Q&A process that collects information about the new business.
- Upon completion, a customized report is generated that provides cross-agency and cross-government resources the entrepreneur will need, including a scoring system to help decide business formation structure. The application is mobile-responsive and makes the report available for print or download.

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## **Expedited Services**

#### By the Numbers in 2020

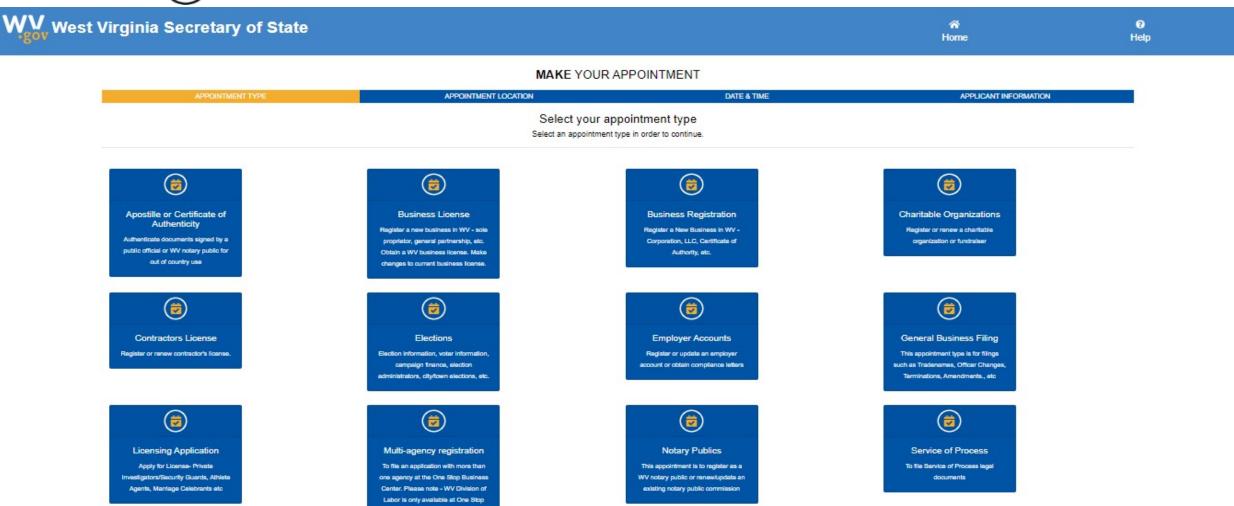
|                                   | Expedite Service            |                          |                        |                    |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
|                                   | 24 hour<br>\$25             | 2 hour<br>\$100          | 1 hour<br>\$500        | Totals             |
| 2017*<br>(Sept. 18<br>to Dec. 31) | 1,380<br>\$34,350<br>71.4%  | 37<br>\$9,250<br>19.2%   | 9<br>\$4,500<br>9.4%   | 1,426<br>\$48,100  |
| 2018                              | 5,808<br>\$145,220<br>78.4% | 108<br>\$27,000<br>14.6% | 26<br>\$13,000<br>7.0% | 5,942<br>\$185,220 |
| 2019                              | 6,588<br>\$164,700<br>85%   | 84<br>\$21,000<br>11%    | 16<br>\$8,000<br>4%    | 6,688<br>\$193,700 |
| 2020                              | 7,100<br>\$177,500<br>97%   | 165<br>\$16,500<br>2%    | 55<br>\$27,500<br>1%   | 7,320<br>\$221,500 |

## • Expedited Services— Why?

- One of the mottos you will hear us mentioning that we use in the Business Division is "Moving at the Speed of Business"—and offering Expedited Services as an option for our customers is an example of that.
- Many in the business community reached out and expressed to us that if we could find a way to offer filings to be done within an hour, two hours or 24 hours they would be willing to pay an additional fee just to ensure that their important documents would be processed within a specific timeframe
- 24 Hour Service \$25
- 2 Hour Service \$250
- 1 Hour Service \$500



The SOS Appointments Online service offers the opportunity to make appointments online or from your mobile device or computer, allowing you to avoid the inconvenience of standing in line. The following appointment types are now available.



Business Center on Wednesday's.



## Veterans, Active Military and Young Entrepreneurs Incentives



#### **Veterans & Active Military**

## When it comes to serving veterans, West Virginia means business!

- To encourage economic growth and to facilitate veterans transitioning from serving our country to re-entering the work force the **Boots To Business** waiver was created, which waives the initial Secretary of State business registration fee and the annual report filing fee for the first four years.
- This year we submitted legislation which was passed expanding the Veteran's waiver to include active military and spouses of active military personnel or veterans.

#### **Young Entrepreneurs**

#### What is the Young Entrepreneur Waiver?

- The <u>Young Entrepreneur Reinvestment Act</u>, states any incorporator of an incorporation, member of a limited liability company, or partner of a partnership who is a West Virginia resident under the age of 30 may have their initial Office of Secretary of State registration filing fee waived, if the business is formed between July 1, 2016 or thereafter.
- To take advantage of this waiver you will be required to provide the Secretary of State's Office with proof of your age and West Virginia residency.

# Enterprise Registration & Licensing Services (ERLS)

## Launched Fall 2020 – erls.wvsos.gov

In 2019, the Office of the Secretary of State of West Virginia began developing a new cloud-based system that would allow businesses and charitable organizations to complete their entire licensing and registration process online

- The new ERLS meant eliminating nearly 164,000 sheets of paper that would either have to be handed in or scanned and posted online. That makes a tremendous impact in terms of speed, efficiency and flexibility —
- In just a few months of being online, we've found that people are accessing the service and using it very comfortably. The adoption rate from paper to online filings is currently up to 85% in some areas like Notaries.
- The type of filings that can be done on ERLS are: Charities, Notaries, Athlete Agents, Marriage Celebrants, Scrap Metal Dealers, Trademarks and Apostilles.