



## State of Tennessee

Justin P. Wilson, State Comptroller

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### Comptroller Wilson Appoints New Small Business Advocate

Comptroller Justin P. Wilson has appointed Lauren Varney Plunk to serve as the state's new small business advocate. In that role, she will provide information and assistance to businesses with 50 or fewer employees as they seek to grow and prosper.

"I am very pleased to welcome Lauren to our staff," Comptroller Wilson said. "Our state's economy is dependent on small businesses. However, for many small business people, dealing with government can be difficult and confusing. Lauren can help small businesses work through regulatory issues with state departments and agencies. In some situations, she may also be able to serve as a go-between to help small businesses and city or county governments resolve disputes or other issues."

Plunk has worked with the Office of the Secretary of State for nearly two and a half years, most recently as an analyst in the department's business services division.

She said interacting with businesses in that job has given her a strong appreciation for the needs and concerns of small business owners.

"Working with government agencies can sometimes be confusing," Plunk said. "I want to be a resource for small business people in their dealings with local and state government."

The General Assembly created the small business advocate position last year. Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey and then-House Republican Leader Jason Mumpower were the primary sponsors of that law. Mumpower now serves as Comptroller Wilson's chief of staff.



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