



DENISE MERRILL
SECRETARY OF THE STATE
CONNECTICUT

For Immediate Release:
December 17, 2012

For more information:
Av Harris: (860) 509-6255
Cell: (860) 463-5939

- PRESS RELEASE -

MERRILL PRESIDES OVER HISTORIC ELECTORAL COLLEGE VOTE

SECRETARY OF THE STATE SEALS VOTE OF CONNECTICUT'S SEVEN ELECTORS FOR
DEMOCRATS BARACK OBAMA AND JOE BIDEN FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

HARTFORD: Secretary of the State Denise Merrill today presided over the historic Electoral College vote in which Connecticut's 7 Electors cast ballots for Democrats Barack Obama for President and Joe Biden for Vice President – making the re-election of this country's first ever African-American President official. The Electoral College vote was held in the State Senate Chambers at the State Capitol in Hartford at noon and was attended by more than 100 students and other guests.

“This Electoral College vote puts an official seal on the millions of votes cast in Connecticut and throughout the country on November 6th to give President Obama and Vice President Biden another term,” said Secretary Merrill. “I am very encouraged by the way Connecticut voters came out in large numbers to cast ballots on November 6th despite a major Hurricane impacting our state just a week before. It also gives me great pride to view with normalcy the re-election of our first African American President – a sight unimaginable in my youth. We now send these official results to Congress where they will be tallied along with the rest of the Electoral Votes so President Obama and Vice President Biden can be sworn in next month for another four-year term.”

According to the U.S. Constitution, each state is awarded a number of electoral votes equal to its total number of representatives in Congress. With 2 U.S. Senators and 5 members of the U.S. House of Representatives, Connecticut is awarded 7 Electoral votes. A slate of 7 Electors from Connecticut were actually chosen by their political party and then elected by voters on November 6, 2012. With a result of 905,083 votes to 634,892 votes, Connecticut voters chose to elect the Democratic Party Electors who had pledged to cast ballots for the Obama/Biden ticket.

The Electors cast their ballots for President-elect Barack Obama and Vice President-elect Joe Biden during a brief noontime ceremony in the Senate Chambers broadcast live on CTN with musical accompaniment provided by the Madrigal Singers of New Britain High School. The ballots were then wax sealed staff of the Secretary of the State's office so they can be delivered to Congress, where a joint session of the House and Senate will take place on January 6, 2013 to

officially count the ballots from all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Vice President Joe Biden will preside over that special joint session of Congress.

President Barack Obama defeated Republican candidate former Governor Mitt Romney of Massachusetts by a total of 336 to 202 Electoral votes and will be sworn into office for another four-year term as the 44th President of the United States on Sunday January 20, 2013.

Connecticut's 7 Electors are: Jim Ezzes (Westport), Carmen Colon (Bridgeport), Jaqueline James (New Haven), Jason Jakubowski (West Hartford), Larry Pleasant (Bloomfield), Ronald Schurin (Mansfield), Mildred Torres-Ferguson (Meriden)

During today's Electoral College vote ceremony, Secretary Merrill also asked for a moment of silence in memory and honor of the victims of the tragic killings of 27 children and adults at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown on Friday December 14th, saying, "Given the unfathomable tragedy that has befallen our small state and our brothers and sisters in the usually quiet community of Newtown just three short days ago, I cannot proceed without acknowledging that our hearts are broken today. In all likelihood, they will be broken for a long time. As a mother and a grandmother, I cannot imagine a greater horror than losing a child, especially in such a senseless act of pure evil and violence. The whole world has responded to us with sympathy and support, for which I am deeply grateful.

So, for today, at this historic public event, we honor the beautiful lives of 20 girls and boys at Sandy Hook elementary school in Newtown, and the seven adults who gave their lives that day – some trying until the last to protect the lives of the children. Despite their tragic end, may all of their memories be a blessing to us. In their memory, I ask that we all rise and observe a moment of silence. I ask that we observe this moment in honor and respect for the life of every victim. and to recognize the holes left in the lives of their loved ones. These holes may never be filled, but we must share our love, compassion and courage with them today and help our broken community heal. Carry these fellow citizens in your hearts, and let them feel your embrace."