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- PRESS RELEASE -

**MERRILL: ABSENTEE BALLOTS NOW
AVAILABLE FOR NOVEMBER 6TH GENERAL
ELECTION**

SECRETARY OF THE STATE ALSO REMINDING ELIGIBLE VOTERS TO REGISTER
BEFORE OCTOBER 30TH DEADLINE IN ORDER TO CAST BALLOTS IN NOVEMBER

HARTFORD: Secretary of the State Denise Merrill today announced that absentee ballots are now available for any registered Connecticut voters who will be out of town or otherwise unable to go to their polling place and cast a ballot in the General Election November 6, 2012. At the same time, Secretary Merrill is also urging eligible voters in Connecticut to register to vote by the final, in-person deadline of October 30th so they can cast ballots in the Presidential Election. The mail-in voter registration deadline is October 23rd.

“With just 27 days before the 2012 Presidential Election, I urge any registered voters who know they will be out of town or otherwise unable to make it to their polling place on Election Day to apply for an absentee ballot now,” said Secretary Merrill, Connecticut’s chief elections official. “Don’t put off applying for an absentee ballot until it is too late – make sure you have a say in who represents you in Hartford and Washington, D.C. If you haven’t yet registered to vote, the final deadline to register is Tuesday October 30th and I urge all eligible voters in Connecticut: don’t sit on the sidelines! Register to vote so your voice will be heard on Election Day!”

To obtain an absentee ballot, registered Connecticut voters can download an application from the Secretary of the State’s website www.sots.ct.gov or local town websites, or they can contact their local town clerk’s office to pick up an application in-person or receive one through the mail. After the applications are submitted, absentee ballots will be sent to registered voters who request them within days. Absentee ballots must be signed and can be returned through the mail or in-person. In order to be counted for the general election, absentee ballots must be received by town clerks no later than 8:00 p.m. on Election Day, November 6, 2012.