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- NEWS RELEASE -

**MERRILL: ONE MONTH LEFT TO REGISTER TO
VOTE FOR REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL
PREFERENCE PRIMARY APRIL 24TH**

SECRETARY OF THE STATE REMINDING UNAFFILIATED VOTERS OF APRIL 23RD AT NOON
DEADLINE TO REGISTER AS REPUBLICANS IN ORDER TO CAST A BALLOT

Hartford: Secretary of the State Denise Merrill today reminded eligible Connecticut voters that they have exactly one month from today to register as Republicans if they wish to cast a ballot in the Republican Presidential Preference Primary on Tuesday April 24, 2012. Only registered Republicans are permitted to vote in the Presidential nominating contest. The final deadline to register to vote is Monday April 23rd at 12:00 p.m. in order to cast a ballot the following day. Unaffiliated voters also face that same deadline to affiliate with the Republican party if they wish to cast a ballot for one of four presidential candidates on April 24th. Earlier this week, Secretary Merrill randomly selected the order for the four Republicans who will appear on the ballot for President. The order will be Republicans Newt Gingrich, Ron Paul, Mitt Romney, and Rick Santorum, followed by a ballot line for “uncommitted.” There will be no Democratic primary on April 24th since the only Democratic candidate who has qualified for the Presidential Preference Primary ballot is President Barack Obama. Connecticut state law specifies that at least two candidates are needed in order to hold a primary.

“The race for the Republican presidential nomination is quite competitive, and the Northeast regional primary on April 24th may prove quite decisive,” said Secretary Merrill, Connecticut’s chief elections official. “I urge any eligible voters interested in casting a ballot in this contest to register by Monday April 23rd at noon. Only registered Republicans can vote in this primary so unaffiliated voters must affiliate with the Republican party with if they wish to cast a ballot in the Presidential Preference Primary. I also want to remind young voters that 17 year-olds can vote ballots in this Presidential Preference Primary in Connecticut – provided they will be 18 on or before the general election November 6th.”

Polls will be open on April 24, 2012 from 6:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. for registered Republicans in Connecticut for the Presidential Preference Primary. Connecticut will be part of a regional primary, as voters in New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Delaware will also be heading to the polls that day. Voters can go online at www.sots.ct.gov to see if they are registered to vote and find out where to vote, or to download an absentee ballot application.