



DENISE MERRILL
SECRETARY OF THE STATE
CONNECTICUT

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- NEWS RELEASE -

**MERRILL: NO DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL
PREFERENCE PRIMARY IN CONNECTICUT, ONLY
FOUR CANDIDATES FOR REPUBLICAN BALLOT ON
APRIL 24TH**

DEADLINE TO TURN IN PRIMARY PETITIONS WAS FRIDAY MARCH 2ND – NO REPUBLICAN OR
DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES SOUGHT FORMS FROM SECRETARY OF THE STATE

Hartford: Secretary of the State Denise Merrill announced today that there will be no Democratic Presidential Preference Primary on April 24, 2012 and that there will only be four candidates on the Republican ballot for that day. Secretary Merrill was able to make that determination due to the fact that the deadline to turn in primary petitions to qualify for the April 24th ballot was Friday March 2, 2012 and not a single Democratic or Republican Presidential candidate sought primary petitions from the Secretary of the State's office. Since President Barack Obama was the only candidate chosen for the Democratic ballot, with no primary challenger in Connecticut, there will be no Presidential Preference Primary for registered Democrats. Registered Republicans will be able to choose on Tuesday April 24th from the four presidential candidates selected by Secretary Merrill last month: Rick Santorum, Newt Gingrich, Mitt Romney, and Ron Paul. The order of those candidates on the Republican ballot will be determined by Secretary Merrill at a public lottery drawing on Tuesday, March 20, 2012.

“This week is super Tuesday, and we are now one step closer to a decision by Connecticut voters as to whom they choose to run for President this fall,” said Secretary Merrill, Connecticut's chief elections official. “No primary will take place on the Democratic side, as the convention delegates will be awarded to President Obama according to state party rules. Republicans will be going to the polls to choose between the four candidates I selected for the ballot last month, and later this month I will need to determine in what order those candidates will appear on the ballot for Tuesday April 24th. I want to once again take this opportunity to remind unaffiliated voters they have until Monday April 23rd to affiliate with the Republican party if they want to cast a ballot in the primary.”

The presidential primary does not directly select actual delegates to the national party conventions. Rather, it determines the number of delegate positions allocated to each Presidential candidate, statewide and/or by Congressional District as the case may be. This apportionment of delegate seats "won" is done

according to the applicable "proportional representation" formula, if any, prescribed by national party rules; or on a "winner takes all" basis if so authorized by such rules; or by the formula specified in the state law if the party rules provide neither a formula nor a winner-takes-all requirement.

The Secretary of the State tabulates the primary returns, calculates the allocation of delegate positions to candidates, and certifies the results to the national and state parties and to the candidates. The procedure for actual selection of the delegates is governed by the rules of each party---provided that the party must select and certify the correct number of delegates committed to each candidate as so determined.

Important dates in run-up to the primary:

- Tuesday, March 20, 2012 Secretary Merrill will determine the order of all candidates on the ballot by randomly drawing their names in a public ceremony.
- Thursday, April 19, 2012 is the mail-in deadline for new voters, and for unaffiliated voters, to *enroll in a party* for voting in its primary. For *new* voters, mail-in applications must be *postmarked*, or received by Registrar of Voters or voter registration agency, by this date. For *unaffiliated* voters, the mail-in application must be received (not merely postmarked) by the Registrar of Voters by this deadline.
- Monday, April 23, 2012 at noon is the in-person deadline for new and unaffiliated voters to register in a party for voting in the primary.

Polls will be open for Connecticut voters registered with a major party from 6:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. 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. The complete calendar for the primary is attached and can be found online at www.sots.ct.gov