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SECRETARY OF THE STATE
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- NEWS RELEASE -

MERRILL REMINDS VOTERS OF REGISTRATION DEADLINES PRIOR TO REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY APRIL 24TH

SECRETARY OF THE STATE: MAIL-IN REGISTRATION DEADLINE TODAY; FINAL IN-PERSON REGISTRATION DEADLINE MONDAY APRIL 23RD AT NOON TO CAST BALLOTS FOR PRIMARY

Hartford: Secretary of the State Denise Merrill today reminded eligible Connecticut voters that they must mail in their voter registration cards by today if they wish to cast ballots 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, in-person deadline to register to vote for the primary is Monday April 23rd at 12:00 p.m. noon 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. The order of the Republican presidential candidates on the ballot will be 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.

“Any voters who are not yet registered but wish to cast ballots in the Republican presidential preference primary on April 24th must have their registration cards in the mail and postmarked by today if they want to vote next Tuesday,” 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, the final in-person deadline. 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.