



DENISE MERRILL
SECRETARY OF THE STATE
CONNECTICUT

For Immediate Release:
May 2, 2012

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

-PRESS RELEASE-

**MERRILL: PRIMARY PETITIONS AVAILABLE FOR
U.S. SENATE AND CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATES**

SECRETARY OF THE STATE REMINDING POTENTIAL REPUBLICAN AND DEMOCRATIC
CANDIDATES FOR FEDERAL OFFICE – DEADLINE TO TURN IN PETITIONS IS JUNE 12TH

HARTFORD: Secretary of the State Denise Merrill today is reminding any Democratic or Republican candidates wishing to run in the August 14th statewide primary for U.S. Senate or Representative in Congress that primary petitions became available as of May 1, 2012. The petitions, which can be signed only by registered Democrats or Republicans, are due into the local Registrars of Voters offices by June 12, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. Any candidate who wishes to petition their way onto the August 14th statewide primary ballot for U.S. Senate and Representative in Congress must collect the signatures of at least 2% of the enrolled party members in the district in which they are seeking office.

“We are entering a busy election season as political conventions gear up for district and state offices, Congress, and the U.S. Senate,” said Secretary Merrill, Connecticut’s chief elections official. “I want to make sure candidates for federal office know that primary petitions are available at our office now. Those who apply for and receive petitions can start collecting signatures for the statewide primary ballot for August 14th. Petitions for General Assembly seats don’t become available until the end of the month, but petitions for federal office are available now. It is a short window to get these petitions signed, as they are due on June 12th.”

Petitioning onto the primary ballot is also available for candidates who do not receive the support of at least 15% of the delegates to their state or district convention. Anyone wanting to join the primary via petition for a General Assembly seat must collect signatures from at least 5% of the enrolled party members in a particular district. Primary petitions for General Assembly do not become available until May 29th. The primary petitions are obtainable at the Secretary of the State’s Office at 30 Trinity Street in Hartford and must be delivered in person to the Registrar of Voters offices in the towns where the petitions were collected. Polls will be open from 6:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. for registered Democrats and Republicans to cast ballots in the statewide primary August 14, 2012.