



DENISE MERRILL
SECRETARY OF THE STATE
CONNECTICUT

For Immediate Release:
July 19, 2013

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

- NEWS RELEASE -

SECRETARY MERRILL ATTENDING NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SECRETARIES OF STATE SUMMER CONFERENCE IN ALASKA

SECRETARY OF THE STATE PRESENTING NATIONAL REPORT ON EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS FOR ELECTIONS; CHAIRING VOTER PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE
MEETING PRESENTING RESOLUTION CALLING FOR NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION
DAY

HARTFORD: Secretary of the State Denise Merrill today started three days of meetings with her counterparts from across the country at the annual summer conference of the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS). Earlier this year, Secretary Merrill was tapped with Louisiana Secretary of State Tom Schedler to head a national commission on emergency preparedness for elections that grew out of the 2012 election response to damage caused by Hurricane Sandy. At the NASS conference tomorrow, the commission under Secretary Merrill's leadership will present findings from a national report on emergency preparedness and disaster response for elections. Secretary Merrill is also co-chair of the NASS Voter Participation Committee, and tomorrow she will oversee the presentation of a resolution calling for a National Voter Registration Day on September 24, 2013. The month of September has already been designated by NASS as National Voter Registration Month, and National Voter Registration Day is a day when secretaries of state throughout the country can highlight new and innovative methods of voter registration, as well as encourage continuing efforts by state and local election officials to play an active role in registering qualified citizens and support efforts by non-partisan organizations to register more voters.

"I am very much looking forward to sharing with my colleagues from across the country the valuable lessons we learned as a result of devastating weather emergencies in the Northeast in the last two years that greatly impacted our election preparations," said Secretary Merrill, Connecticut's chief elections official. "I am also very excited to chair our Voter Participation Committee meeting and pass the resolution calling for September 24th to be named National

Voter Registration Day. We need to do everything we can to get more people registered to vote and increase the number of people exercising their constitutional right to choose their government.”

During the Voter Participation Committee meeting Saturday July 20th, Secretary Merrill will also be hearing presentations by election officials from Florida detailing a bipartisan law recently enacted to reduce long lines at the polls on Election Day. During the Presidential election of 2012, some Florida voters waited in lines as long as 8 hours before being able to cast ballots. Alleviating long delays on Election Day is one of the key goals of a national commission on election administration recently established by President Barack Obama. The chairs of the Presidential commission will also be speaking at the conference. At the Voter Participation Committee meeting tomorrow, Secretary Merrill will also hear a presentation from California Secretary of State Debra Bowen discussing the designation of that state’s new health care exchange as a voter registration agency. Minnesota Secretary of State Mark Ritchie will also be speaking about that state’s “Vote in Honor of a Veteran” campaign to increase voter registration and turnout.