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- PRESS RELEASE -

MERRILL AND CONNECTICUT TOWN CLERKS URGE VOTERS TO MAIL IN ABSENTEE BALLOTS EARLY FOR NOVEMBER 3RD MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

SECRETARY OF THE STATE CAUTIONS CONNECTICUT VOTERS TO AVOID MAIL
DELAYS, MAKE SURE ABSENTEE BALLOTS ARE RECEIVED BY ELECTION DAY

HARTFORD: With Connecticut municipal elections just one week away on November 3, 2015 Secretary of the State Denise Merrill today joined the Connecticut Town Clerks Association to urge Connecticut voters using absentee ballots to mail them in early to avoid mail delays. Under Connecticut election law, absentee ballots will be counted if they are received by town clerks before 8:00 p.m. on Election Day. Any absentee ballots received after that time will not be counted. Any registered voter who will be out of town on Election Day or unable to vote due to illness, physical disability, active duty military service, religious reasons or because they are a poll worker can go online at www.myvote.ct.gov and download an application for an absentee ballot.

“Election Day is right around the corner and I want to make sure any Connecticut voters unable to go to the polls and cast a ballot next Tuesday November 3rd get their absentee ballots and mail them in early,” said Secretary Merrill, Connecticut’s chief elections official. “Connecticut town clerks are always very helpful with anyone seeking to vote by absentee ballot, and those ballots are available now. But don’t wait too long before filling them out and mailing them in; no one would want any delays in the mail to prevent your vote from being counted. Call your town clerk today if you’re going to need an absentee ballot to vote.”

Westport Town Clerk Patricia Strauss, who also serves as president of the Connecticut Town Clerks Association, said, “If you are voting by absentee ballot, Connecticut State Law requires your ballot be delivered to the town clerk’s office by 8:00 p.m. on Election

Day. Each year, many ballots arrive a day or two late. These ballots are recorded as late returns but never opened. To ensure your vote is counted, I recommend mailing or delivering your ballot immediately to your respective town clerk's office."

On Election Day November 3, 2015 polls will be open for municipal elections from 6:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. in all but four Connecticut cities and towns (Andover, Bethany, Union and Woodbridge all held municipal elections in May). Voters can check their registration status online, download an application for an absentee ballot and find where their polling place is by visiting www.myvote.ct.gov