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- NEWS RELEASE -

**MERRILL TAKES STEPS TO ENSURE
SMOOTH OPERATION OF VOTER DATABASE
PRIOR TO GENERAL ELECTION**

SECRETARY OF THE STATE COORDINATES TESTING OF DATABASE FOR HIGH
VOLUME USAGE BY LOCAL ELECTION OFFICIALS IN PREPARATION FOR
NOVEMBER 6TH PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

HARTFORD: Secretary of the State Denise Merrill today released a joint plan established with the Connecticut Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to test and ensure smooth operation of the Connecticut Voter Registration System (CVRS) as Registrars of Voters prepare for the presidential election on November 6, 2012. The CVRS database houses the state's voter registration rolls and serves a crucial function as Registrars in every municipality in the state prepare voter lists, and add new registered voters, and make other mandated preparations for the general election. The new action plan was established after a recent "stress test" of CVRS involving more than 100 municipal Registrars of Voters showed numerous data slowdowns and freezeouts that could negatively impact election preparations. Working with DAS officials, Secretary Merrill's office directed the removal of parts of the CVRS system from the state's computer mainframe onto distributed servers over the weekend. Another test of the CVRS application was completed yesterday which was successful and showed the program to work flawlessly. The next step will be to conduct another "stress test" involving large numbers of Registrars of Voters who use the system on Thursday October 18th to see if other program fixes need to be made.

"I am determined to work with our colleagues at DAS quickly in response to the needs of our local election administrators so the crucial data systems our democracy depends on can function properly as we prepare for a high turnout presidential election," said Secretary Merrill, Connecticut's chief elections official. "We are committed to making sure Registrars of Voters have everything they need in the weeks leading up to Election Day. Registrars and Voters need a functioning database up-to-date voter lists can be prepared and printed out, and newly registered voters who want to cast a ballot can be accommodated."

Secretary Merrill added, “Our primary concern about difficulties with the CVRS system is how it impacts Registrars of Voters preparation for the election but we do not foresee this causing a problem on Election Day November 6, 2012. In any event, emergency plans are being prepared just in case.”

“We at DAS Bureau of Enterprise Services and Technology are prepared to work with Secretary Merrill, her staff and local registrars to ensure the proper functioning of the statewide system leading up to the November election,” said Commissioner Donald DeFronzo of the Connecticut Department of Administrative Services.

The CVRS system is a closed computerized network. Parts of the CRVS system were moved to state mainframe in May of 2011 in an effort to become more cost efficient. The state mainframe shares processing power with more than a dozen state departments including the Departments of Social Services, Corrections, Transportation, Public Safety and numerous others. Officials with DAS recently informed numerous state departments that the mainframe is nearing its load capacity and that attempts would be made to expand the capability of the mainframe by more than 20% so data slowdowns or freezeouts could be avoided while state agencies do critical work sharing the same network. After the recent stress test conducted by local election administrators showed data slowdowns, a meeting between Secretary Merrill and DAS Commissioner DeFronzo resulted in the action by officials at DAS working with the private sector vendor PCC Computing Technologies which developed the CVRS application to ensure smooth program operation during high volume pre-election usage.