



DENISE MERRILL
SECRETARY OF THE STATE
CONNECTICUT

For Immediate Release:
March 20, 2012

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

- NEWS RELEASE -

**SECRETARY MERRILL SELECTS ORDER OF
CANDIDATES APPEARING ON APRIL 24TH
REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE
PRIMARY BALLOT**

ORDER OF REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES WILL BE NEWT GINGRICH, RON PAUL, MITT ROMNEY,
FOLLOWED BY RICK SANTORUM; REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS APRIL 23RD AT 12:00 P.M.

Hartford: Secretary of the State Denise Merrill today joined Connecticut Republican Party Executive Director Bryan Cafferelli for a news conference at the State Capitol to randomly select the order in which the four Republican candidates will appear on the ballot for the 2012 Presidential Preference Primary. Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes 9-470, Secretary Merrill selected the Republican candidates to appear on the ballot for the April 24, 2012 primary in the following order, followed by a ballot line for “uncommitted”:

1. Newt Gingrich
2. Ron Paul
3. Mitt Romney
4. Rick Santorum

Since the only Democratic candidate who has qualified for the Presidential Preference Primary ballot is President Barack Obama, Secretary Merrill had earlier announced that there will be no Democratic primary on April 24th, since under Connecticut state law there need to be at least two candidates to force a primary.

“The race for the Republican presidential nomination is set to roll through Connecticut in just over a month,” said Secretary Merrill, Connecticut’s chief elections official. “Any voters who have not yet registered have until Monday April 23rd at noon to register as Republicans if they wish to vote in the Presidential Preference Primary. That same deadline applies to unaffiliated voters who wish to cast ballots on Tuesday April 24th. This will also be the first time that 17 year-olds can cast ballots in a Presidential Preference Primary in Connecticut – provided they will be 18 on or before the general election November 6th.”

Of note: The presidential primary does not directly select actual delegates to the national party conventions. Rather, it determines the number of delegate positions allocated to each Presidential candidate, statewide and/or by Congressional District as the case may be. This apportionment of delegate seats “won” is done according to the applicable “proportional representation” formula, if any, prescribed by national party rules; or on a “winner takes all” basis if so authorized by such rules; or by the formula specified in the state law if the party rules provide neither a formula nor a winner-takes-all requirement.

The Secretary of the State tabulates the primary returns, calculates the allocation of delegate positions to candidates, and certifies the results to the national and state parties and to the candidates. The procedure for actual selection of the delegates is governed by the rules of each party – provided that the party must select and certify the correct number of delegates committed to each candidate as so determined.

Important dates in run-up to the primary:

- Thursday, April 19, 2012 is the mail-in deadline for new voters, and for unaffiliated voters, to *enroll in a party* for voting in its primary. For *new* voters, mail-in applications must be *postmarked*, or received by Registrar of Voters or voter registration agency, by this date. For *unaffiliated* voters, the mail-in application must be received (not merely postmarked) by the Registrar of Voters by this deadline.
- Monday, April 23, 2012 at noon is the in-person deadline for new and unaffiliated voters to register in a party for voting in the primary.

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. The complete calendar for the primary is attached and can be found online at www.sots.ct.gov