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SECRETARY OF THE STATE
CONNECTICUT

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- PRESS RELEASE -

**MERRILL: ABSENTEE BALLOTS NOW
AVAILABLE FOR AUGUST 12TH PRIMARIES;
SPECIAL ELECTION TODAY IN 122ND HOUSE
DISTRICT**

SECRETARY OF THE STATE ALSO REMINDS UNAFFILIATED VOTERS THEY CAN
ENROLL WITH DEMOCRATS OR REPUBLICANS BY AUGUST 11TH IN ORDER TO
CAST BALLOT IN PRIMARY; POLLS OPEN UNTIL 8:00 P.M. FOR ALL
REGISTERED VOTERS IN 122ND HOUSE DISTRICT

HARTFORD: Secretary of the State Denise Merrill today announced that absentee ballots are now available for any Connecticut voter who will be out of town or otherwise unavailable to go to their polling place and cast a ballot in statewide primaries on August 12, 2014. Unaffiliated voters across the state who wish to cast a ballot in the primary must enroll with the Democratic or Republican Parties by August 11th at 12:00 p.m., since only registered Republicans or Democrats can vote in the primary Tuesday, August 12th. At the same time, Secretary Merrill is also reminding registered voters in the 122nd General Assembly district that polls are open until 8:00 p.m. today for a special election to fill the vacancy left after the passing of State representative Larry Miller of Stratford. The 122nd district includes the town of Shelton, and parts of Trumbull and Stratford.

“It is time to start thinking about the Republican and Democratic primaries happening in Connecticut on Tuesday August 12th so if you will be out of town or unable to get to your polling place that day, absentee ballots are now available,” said Secretary Merrill, Connecticut’s chief elections official. “I also want to remind any registered voter in the 122nd state house district that polls will be open until 8:00 p.m. tonight in the special election to choose a successor to Representative Larry Miller, who passed away last month. I urge any interested voter to participate in the special election today if you live in the 122nd. For any other voters interested in the many important issues at the state level: register to vote now so you can cast a ballot in the August 12th primaries! Important decisions will be made by the Representatives and Senators you choose to serve you in Hartford, so make your voice heard by registering to vote and casting a ballot.”

Secretary Merrill also reminds any eligible voter that applications for absentee ballots are available at town clerks offices or online at www.sots.ct.gov/vote. Once an application is completed and turned in, the ballot will be sent to the voter in the mail within days. Absentee ballots can be returned by mail or in-person to town offices up until 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday August 12, 2014 and still be counted in the statewide primary. Secretary Merrill is also reminding eligible voters who want to cast a ballot in the primaries that they can register to vote online between now and August 7, 2014.

Connecticut law allows 17-year-olds to register and vote in the primary if they will turn 18 by the general election on November 4, 2014. The final, in-person deadline to register to vote for the primary is August 11th at 12:00 at noon at local Registrar of Voters offices. Unaffiliated voters wishing to cast a primary ballot also face the same deadline to enroll with a major party, but can also switch their registration status online now. Since the beginning of the year, nearly 3,300 unaffiliated Connecticut voters have enrolled with a major party, making them eligible to vote in the August 12th primary (1,743 have enrolled as Democrats while 1,543 have enrolled as Republicans).

On Primary Day August 12, 2014 polls will be open statewide from 6:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. for registered Republicans and Democrats. Secretary Merrill encourages any voter wishing to check their registration status, find out where their polling place is, view candidate lists, register to vote and download absentee ballot forms to visit www.sots.ct.gov/vote.