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## **MERRILL: VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE APPROACHING FOR APRIL 24<sup>TH</sup> REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY**

SECRETARY OF THE STATE REPORTS MORE THAN 3,800 NEW VOTERS HAVE REGISTERED  
WITH REPUBLICAN PARTY; MORE THAN 1,500 UNAFFILIATED VOTERS HAVE ENROLLED WITH  
GOP SINCE BEGINNING OF 2012 – DECLINE FROM 2008 FIGURES

**HARTFORD:** Secretary of the State Denise Merrill today reminded Republican and unaffiliated voters that the voter registration deadline for the April 24, 2012 Republican Presidential Preference Primary in Connecticut is fast approaching. Secretary Merrill is also reporting that since the beginning of the year, some 3,878 new voters have registered with the Republican party and 1,515 unaffiliated voters in Connecticut have enrolled with the Republican party, enabling them to vote in the upcoming Presidential Preference Primary.

“Republicans in Connecticut will be going to the polls in a major regional primary on April 24<sup>th</sup>, along with voters in New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Rhode Island,” said Secretary Merrill, Connecticut’s chief elections official. “This primary is looking to be the decisive contest in the 2012 Republican nomination battle. Eligible voters have until Monday April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 12:00 p.m. noon to register as Republicans if they wish to vote in the Presidential Preference Primary. Unaffiliated voters also face that same deadline to enroll with the Republican party if they want to cast a ballot in April 24<sup>th</sup>.”

From January 1, 2012 through March 27, 2012 more than 16,402 new voters registered to vote. Among newly registered voters more than 5,189 Democrats and 3,878 Republicans registered to vote. In that same period of time some 6,991 new voters registered as unaffiliated. Additionally, more than 1,515 unaffiliated voters enrolled in the Republican Party in order to vote in the April 24<sup>th</sup> primary. Compared to 2008 numbers, these numbers represent a decline in both new Republican voters and unaffiliated voters enrolling in the party in the months leading up to the Republican Presidential Preference primary. In 2008, some 6,300 new voters registered as Republicans in the 90 days prior to the primary, while some 3,600 unaffiliated voters enrolled as Republicans during that same time period, enabling them to cast ballots for President. There are currently nearly 2,000,000 active registered voters in Connecticut, including 734,431 Democrats, 414,539 Republicans, and 828,252 unaffiliated voters.

**CURRENT ACTIVE VOTERS BY PARTY AS OF 03/27/12**

PARTY	COUNT
A Better Future	6
A Connecticut Party	4
A Sentinel Party	30
Canterbury First	2
Chatham Party	9
Concerned Citizens	196
Connecticut For Lieberman	81
<b>Democratic</b>	<b>734,431</b>
Enfield Taxpayers Party	2
Friends Of Saybrook	13
Green	1,722
Guilty	1
Independence	808
Independence For Montville	8
Independent	9,482
Libertarian	1,259
Milford Independent Party	2
Norwich for Change	1
Pro-Bethel	2
Realistic Balance	3
Reform	87
<b>Republican</b>	<b>414,539</b>
Swing	1
The Hampton Party	1
<b>Unaffiliated</b>	<b>828,252</b>
We The People	47
Winsted Independent	36
Working Families	164
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<b>Total Active Voters</b>	<b>1,991,189</b>

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. Voters can go online at [www.sots.ct.gov](http://www.sots.ct.gov) to download voter registration forms, absentee ballot applications, and find out where their polling place is located.

**Previous Presidential Primary Turnout**

2008 Democratic	51.1%	1992 Democratic	26.2%
2008 Republican	36.7%	1992 Republican	21.9%
2004 Democratic	20.4%	1988 Democratic	36.8%
2000 Republican	40.8%	1988 Republican	23.8%
2000 Democratic	28.8%	1984 Democratic	33.0%
1996 Republican	28.4%	1980 Democratic	33.2%
		1980 Republican	43.3%