

From the Office of Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz

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For Immediate Release

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BYSIEWICZ DRAWS ORDER FOR MARCH 2 PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY BALLOT John Edwards gets top row among eight Democratic hopefuls

In a public ceremony at the State Capitol, Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz drew lots to determine which order candidates will be listed on the March 2 Connecticut Democratic Presidential Primary ballot. Ballot order as drawn by Bysiewicz will be:

- 1) John Edwards, North Carolina
- 2) Joe Lieberman, Connecticut
- 3) Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., Virginia
- 4) Dennis J. Kucinich, Ohio
- 5) Howard Dean, Vermont
- 6) John F. Kerry, Massachusetts
- 7) Wesley Clark, Arkansas
- 8) Al Sharpton, New York
- 9) *Uncommitted*

By law, "uncommitted" must appear as an option at the bottom of the Democratic ballot. There is no Republican primary this year.

"Our presidential primary offers Connecticut Democrats the opportunity to help select who will run for our country's highest office," Bysiewicz said. "I encourage every Democrat to consider each candidate and show their support for our democracy by voting."

Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Vermont will also be holding presidential primaries March 2, creating a New England regional event that day. Presidential primary voting will also take place in mega states New York and California. Other states making presidential preferences March 2 include Georgia, Maryland, Minnesota, Ohio and Washington.

Connecticut's 670,000-plus Democrats are eligible to vote in the presidential primary. Unaffiliated and new voters have until noon March 1 to register as Democrats and still vote March 2. The deadline to switch from one party to another has passed for this presidential primary due to a statutory three-month waiting period.

State law requires the Secretary of the State to select candidates for presidential primaries that are "generally and seriously advocated or recognized according to reports in the national or state news media."

Bysiewicz announced nine such candidates last month, but Carol Moseley Braun of Illinois and Dick Gephardt of Missouri have since withdrawn from the presidential race. Braun's official withdrawal was received by Bysiewicz' office on Jan. 26, the final day to be removed from Connecticut's ballot. Gephardt's withdrawal letter arrived Jan. 23. LaRouche was added as a petitioning candidate after collecting in excess of the 6,235 required signatures of enrolled Democrats.

2004 will be the seventh presidential election cycle since Connecticut's presidential primary law was passed by the General Assembly in 1977. Voter turnout for the 2000 Democratic primary totaled 29%, but Bysiewicz is predicting a higher turnout this year due to Sen. Lieberman's presence on the ballot.

Previous winners of Connecticut presidential preference primaries and the eventual party nominees are as follows:

Year	Previous CT Winners	Eventual Party Nominees
1980	(Dem) Ted Kennedy (Rep) George Bush	Jimmy Carter Ronald Reagan
1984	(Dem) Gary Hart <i>no Republican primary</i>	Walter Mondale Ronald Reagan
1988	(Dem) Michael Dukakis (Rep) George Bush	Michael Dukakis George Bush
1992	(Dem) Jerry Brown (Rep) George Bush	Bill Clinton George Bush
1996	(Rep) Bob Dole <i>no Democratic primary</i>	Bob Dole Bill Clinton
2000	(Dem) Al Gore (Rep) John McCain	Al Gore George W. Bush

Polls will be open on March 2 from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Absentee ballots will be available from town clerks beginning February 10.