



Susan Bysiewicz
SECRETARY OF THE STATE
CONNECTICUT

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For more information:
Derek Slap: (860) 509-6255
Cell: (860) 573-2019

- NEWS RELEASE -

CONNECTICUT ONE STEP CLOSER TO JOINING 'SUPER-DUPER' TUESDAY

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY APPROVES BYSIEWICZ'S PROPOSAL

Hartford: Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz is thrilled that the Government Administration and Elections Committee (GAE) has unanimously approved her proposal to move the date of Connecticut's Presidential Primaries from March 4th to Feb. 5th.

"As it stands now, Connecticut residents are at risk of being disenfranchised, left to watch as 22 other states decide who will be the two nominees for president," said Bysiewicz. "Only by moving the Presidential Primary in Connecticut will our voters have an opportunity to impact the election. From the war in Iraq to our nation's health care crisis, there is too much at stake for us to be left out in the cold. I applaud members of the GAE committee for their support of this proposal and now urge all members of the General Assembly to vote yes."

If adopted, Connecticut would join 22 other states – comprising more than 40% of the nation’s population - which are planning to hold a primary or caucus on Feb. 5th.

Under the proposal, Section 9-464 of the general statutes would be repealed and the following language would be substituted: On the first Tuesday in February of each year in which the President of the United States is to be elected, each party shall conduct a primary in each town if the names of two or more candidates are to be placed on such party's ballot in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

As the Chair of the Government Administration and Elections Committee in 1995, then State Rep. Bysiewicz, sponsored legislation to move Connecticut’s Presidential primary so as to keep it aligned with the majority of New England states. The Connecticut General Assembly approved this measure, moving the date of the state’s Presidential primaries from the 4th Monday in March to the first Tuesday in March. Since 1995, Connecticut has essentially been part of a New England primary, voting on the same day in March as Vermont, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts. Rhode Island lawmakers are currently considering a proposal to move their primary to Feb. 5th and the Sec. of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, William Galvin, has told Sec. Bysiewicz that it’s possible his state could also move its primary.

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