



Susan Bysiewicz
SECRETARY OF THE STATE
CONNECTICUT

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- NEWS ADVISORY -

BYSIEWICZ HEADS TO D.C. TO HELP REFORM PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY CALENDAR

NATIONAL SUBCOMMITTEE ON PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARIES TO HOLD FIRST MEETING
FRIDAY - BYSIEWICZ TO SERVE AS MEMBER

Hartford: Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz, member of the National Association of Secretaries of the State (NASS) Subcommittee on Presidential Primaries, will meet with colleagues in Washington, D.C. on Friday November 16th to help reform the presidential primary process.

The NASS meeting is being held at the Hall of States (444 N. Capitol Street, NW) in Washington, D.C. and will begin at 9 AM. The 17 member subcommittee will meet with representatives from the Democratic and Republican National Committees, make recommendations to lawmakers and testify on the need to reform the way the presidential nominees are selected.

NASS is hoping to generate support for the NASS Regional Rotating Presidential Primaries Plan. According to NASS, their proposal divides the country into four geographic areas—Eastern, Southern, Midwestern and Western—and rotates each region to vote first beginning in March. The other regions would hold their primary

elections in April, May and June. A different part of the country would vote first every sixteen years. New Hampshire and Iowa would retain their early status to allow under-funded and less widely known candidates to compete through retail politics rather than the costly media-driven campaigns required in larger states.

This past March Secretary Bysiewicz held a news conference to propose legislation to move Connecticut's presidential primary from the first Tuesday in March to the first Tuesday in February. She was joined by voting rights advocates, State Senators Edward Meyer and Gayle Slossberg and promised to work toward reforming the primary process. On June 26th, Public Act 07132, An Act Concerning Presidential Preference Primary, was signed into law and officially changed Connecticut's presidential primary date to the first Tuesday in February.

“To leave the primary calendar the way it is just invites chaos,” said Bysiewicz, “In the absence of a rational primary process, we are seeing an ad-hoc national primary take shape. Connecticut didn't start this tidal wave but we could not stand by and allow our voters to become irrelevant. Ultimately, members of both political parties must come together and enact real reform.”

Interviews with Secretary Bysiewicz from the conference in Washington, D.C. are available upon request.

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