



Susan Bysiewicz
SECRETARY OF THE STATE
CONNECTICUT

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WITH SUPER TUESDAY APPROACHING, CANDIDATES ARE COURTING CONSTITUTION STATE VOTERS

BYSIEWICZ'S INITIATIVE TO MOVE UP PRIMARY DATE PAYS OFF FOR
CONNECTICUT WITH CANDIDATE VISIBILITY
AND SURGE IN VOTER REGISTRATION

HARTFORD: Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz announced that time is running out to register with a party in advance of the Tuesday February 5th presidential primary.

“For the first time, Connecticut is on the map and voters are positioned to help choose our nation’s presidential nominees before Super Tuesday,” Bysiewicz said. “As candidates directly court Connecticut voters through public stops, advertising, and grassroots campaigning, it is clear that moving the primary from March to February has paid off for our state. That is why I am urging every eligible resident to register to vote, enroll in a party, and make their voice heard.”

Last March, Secretary Bysiewicz called for the date of Connecticut’s Presidential primary to be changed from March to February. Following her

proposal, the General Assembly approved the date change during the 2007 legislative session.

In order to be eligible to vote on February 5th, new voters must have their registration forms postmarked by January 31st. Unaffiliated voters must have their forms received by their local registrar of voters on January 31st. Connecticut residents who are unable to meet the January 31st deadlines have until February 4th at 12:00 pm (noon) to register in person at their local town hall. Polls will be open from 6 AM to 8 PM.

Connecticut, in advance of the February 5th primary has experienced a surge in voter registration. Since November 1, 2007, nearly 16,000 Connecticut residents registered to vote and enrolled in a party. Democratic registration outpaced Republican registration 11,139 to 4,608 since November 1, 2007. In the last four weeks, 7,552 newly registered voters enrolled with the Democratic Party and 2,751 newly registered voters enrolled in the Republican Party.

The upcoming primary has also generated great interest from unaffiliated voters. Since January 1, 2008, 5,216 unaffiliated voters have switched their registration to Democrat and another 1,471 unaffiliated voters switched to Republican.

The number of registered voters in Connecticut is 1,916,381. Currently, there are 675,563 registered Democrats, 408,746 Republicans, and 826,209 unaffiliated voters.

The Office of the Secretary of the State maintains an aggressive voter registration program. As part of her effort to increase voter registration in Connecticut, Secretary Bysiewicz this past year registered more than 1,000 high school students. Secretary Bysiewicz has conducted more than 200 voting machine demonstrations highlighting the new machines and registering voters. The Office of the Secretary of the State also registers new citizens to vote at naturalization ceremonies across Connecticut.

Voter registration forms can be downloaded from the Secretary of the State's website by visiting:

<http://www.sots.ct.gov/ElectionsServices/electforms/ed671.pdf>