
From the Office of Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz

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SECRETARY OF THE STATE'S OFFICE LAUNCHES 2006 VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE

For August 8 primary, Secretary Bysiewicz urges unaffiliated voters to "Affiliate and Participate"

HARTFORD – The Office of the Secretary of the State today launched its 2006 Voter Registration Drive for the August 8th primary and November 7th general election. Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz urged the state's 900,000 unaffiliated voters to affiliate with a major party in order to participate in the August 8th primary, saying that "this primary is too important for the state's largest block of voters to miss."

There are as many as fifteen different primaries scheduled throughout Connecticut on August 8, including Democratic primaries for Governor and U.S. Senate, a Republican primary for the 1st Congressional District, and up to twelve General Assembly primaries scheduled for both parties. **(SEE ATTACHED LIST)** Secretary Bysiewicz said even though this is the first time voters will go to the polls for a primary in August for statewide office, rather than September, she predicted that the high profile nature of at least two of these races will lead to a better turnout than in recent years.

"In recent years voter turnout in primaries for statewide office hasn't been higher than twenty-five percent, and has been as low as eighteen percent. But this year, with the well-publicized races on the Democratic side for Governor and U.S. Senate, as well as several local primaries for General Assembly races, I am hoping to see a voter turnout of between thirty and forty percent," Secretary Bysiewicz said. "Our drive for people to 'affiliate and participate' is to get all Connecticut voters involved in a critical part of our democratic process. Selecting who will represent you and making your voice heard on issues important to you starts in the voting booth at a primary."

Unaffiliated voters, as well as those not yet registered, have until August 7th at

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12 p.m. to register in person with a political party, Secretary Bysiewicz said. They can always switch back to unaffiliated after August 8, she added, but urged them to “play a role in choosing their leaders by exercising their precious right to vote.”

Secretary Bysiewicz also urged those who will be away to request absentee ballots from their local Town Clerk.

“As our brave young men and women continue to fight the War on Terror in Iraq and Afghanistan and work to protect the burgeoning freedoms in those countries, Americans owe it to these brave men and women to cast their votes,” Secretary Bysiewicz said.

“In Connecticut, we owe it to our state’s 300,000 veterans, to the 900 Connecticut troops currently in Iraq and Afghanistan, and certainly to the memory of the thirty men and women who lost their lives fighting for their country to show up and vote,” Secretary Bysiewicz said. “The free elections held in Iraq and Afghanistan in the past two years are a tribute to our soldiers’ sacrifices and successes. Our democracy has long been a model for the rest of the world, and should never be taken for granted.”

Representatives from the state’s Democratic and Republican parties attended today’s event to encourage people to register and affiliate with a party, as were representatives from the Town Clerk’s Association of Connecticut, the Registrar of Voters Association of Connecticut, the League of Women Voters, and Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission, the African American Affairs Commission, and the NAACP.

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Primaries Scheduled For August 8

Statewide and Federal Offices

OFFICE	PARTY	CANDIDATES
Governor	Democrat	Dan Malloy* John DeStefano
U.S. Senate	Democrat	Joe Lieberman* Ned Lamont
U.S. Congress 1st District	Republican	Scott MacLean* Miriam Masullo

*** Indicates candidate endorsed by the party**

State House Primaries, as of 7/3/06

* denotes endorsed candidate

The Office of the Secretary of the State has paperwork filed for twelve primaries – ten Democratic and two Republican.

Republican Primaries

DISTRICT	CANDIDATES
49th (Windham) Incumbent is Democrat Walter Pawelkiewicz)	*Harry Carboni Daniel Lein
89TH (Bethany, Cheshire, Prospect) Incumbent is Democrat Vicki Nardello (D-Prospect)	*Roger Kergaravat (Prospect) Tim White (Cheshire)

Democratic Primaries

DISTRICT	CANDIDATES
3rd (Hartford) Minnie Gonzalez is the incumbent.	*Minnie Gonzalez Frank Dejesus
4th (Hartford) Evelyn Mantilla is the incumbent; she is not seeking re-election.	*Kelvin Roldan Angel Arce
41ST (Groton) This is an open seat currently held by Lenny Winkler (R-Groton). The Republican candidate is Heather Sherman Bond.	*Rita Schmidt Elissa Wright Michael Kindle
53rd (Ashford, Tolland, Willington) This is an open seat previously held by Michael Cardin (D-Tolland). The Republican candidate is April Teveris (R-Tolland)	*Bryan Hurlburt (D-Tolland) Susan Eastwood (D-Ashford)
72nd (Waterbury) This is an open seat currently held by Reggie Beamon (D-Waterbury) The Republican candidate is Rodney Parker (R-Waterbury)	*Larry Butler (D-Waterbury) Monroe Webster (D-Waterbury)
73rd (Waterbury) Jeff Berger (D-Waterbury) is the incumbent. The Republican challenger is Adam Simonsen (R-Waterbury)	*Jeff Berger (D-Waterbury) Anthony Piccochi (D-Waterbury)
79th (Bristol) Kosta Diamantis is the incumbent, former Mayor Frank Nicastro has the endorsement. The Republican candidate is	*Frank Nicastro Sr. Kosta Diamantis

Henry Raymond III.	
127th (Bridgeport) Jack Hennessy is the incumbent, Thomas McCarthy got the nomination.	*Thomas McCarthy Jack Hennessy
128th (Bridgeport) Lydia Martinez is the incumbent, Andres Ayala has the endorsement.	*Andres Ayala Lydia Martinez
140th (Norwalk) Joe Mann is the incumbent; he is not seeking re-election. The Republican candidate is Richard McQuaid.	*Bruce Morris Carvin Hilliard Myrtice Riley-Wilson