



**DENISE MERRILL**  
SECRETARY OF THE STATE  
CONNECTICUT

For Immediate Release:  
May 5, 2012

For more information:  
Av Harris: (860) 509-6255  
Cell: (860) 463-5939

-PRESS RELEASE-

# **MERRILL: FINAL PASSAGE OF ELECTION DAY REGISTRATION, ONLINE VOTER REGISTRATION MOVES CONNECTICUT ELECTIONS INTO THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY**

SECRETARY OF THE STATE LOOKS FORWARD TO ENACTING HB 5024 THAT WOULD  
MODERNIZE ELECTIONS, LEAD TO HIGHER VOTER PARTICIPATION

**HARTFORD:** Secretary of the State Denise Merrill today lauded the final legislative passage of House Bill No. 5024 "*An Act Concerning Voting Rights*" – a measure proposed by Governor Dannel P. Malloy that once enacted will allow eligible Connecticut residents to register to vote and cast ballots on Election Day, and will also enable eligible Connecticut residents with a driver's license to register to vote from any computer or mobile device with an internet connection. The Connecticut State Senate endorsed the bill today by a vote of 19-16. The measure was approved by the House of Representatives on April 30, 2012 by a vote of 83-59.

"This common sense yet long overdue reform is something we have tried to implement in Connecticut for years, and now we have made history by moving elections in our state into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century," said Secretary Merrill, Connecticut's chief elections official. "This will make the right to vote much easier to exercise for the eligible voters of Connecticut and lead to increased voter participation. We have the technology to allow eligible voters to register online from any computer or mobile device, and we have the security in place to allow those late deciding, busy and mobile voters to register and cast ballots on Election Day. This will also make our voter lists more accurate. I commend both Representative Russ Morin and Senator Gayle Slossberg, the chairs of the Government Administration and Elections Committee, and leadership in both the Senate and House for seeing this bill through to passage this year. I also commend the leadership shown by Governor Malloy in proposing this legislation and I look forward to watching him sign it into law."

Connecticut becomes the 11<sup>th</sup> state to enact Election Day Registration. Some states such as Maine, Minnesota and Wisconsin have had Election Day Registration on the books since the 1970s. Studies have shown that voter turnout in states with Election Day Registration is on average 10% higher than national voter turnout figures. Once signed into law, Election Day Registration would only be available for November General Elections, not for primaries, starting in 2013. The new law will also create an interface between the existing Centralized Voter Registration System and the database housed at the state Department of Motor Vehicles that would verify the identity of a voter wishing to register online prior to approval by the local Registrar of Voters.