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-PRESS RELEASE-

**MERRILL: PRIMARY PETITIONS AVAILABLE FOR
STATEWIDE AND CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATES**

SECRETARY OF THE STATE REMINDING POTENTIAL REPUBLICAN AND DEMOCRATIC
CANDIDATES FOR FEDERAL AND STATE OFFICE – DEADLINE TO TURN IN PETITIONS IS
JUNE 10TH

HARTFORD: Secretary of the State Denise Merrill today is reminding any Democratic or Republican candidates that primary petitions are available for those wishing to run in the August 12th primary for statewide Constitutional office and Representative in Congress. The petitions, which can be signed only by registered Democrats or Republicans, must be submitted to local Registrars of Voters offices or the Secretary of the State’s office by June 10, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. Any candidate who wishes to petition their way onto the August 12th statewide primary ballot for Representative in Congress and statewide office must collect the signatures of at least 2% of the enrolled party members in the district in which they are seeking office. Republican candidates wishing to petition onto the primary ballot for statewide office need the signatures of 8,190 registered Connecticut Republicans, while Democrats seeking to petition onto the primary ballot for statewide office need signatures from 14,645 registered Democrats in Connecticut (A full chart of petition requirements by office is attached to this news release).

“We are entering a busy election season as political conventions gear up for state and federal offices,” said Secretary Merrill, Connecticut’s chief elections official. “I want to make sure candidates for federal and statewide office know that primary petitions are available now. Those who apply for and receive petitions can start collecting signatures for the statewide primary ballot for August 12th. It is a short window to get these petitions signed, as they are due on June 10th.”

Petitioning onto the primary ballot is also available for candidates who do not receive the support of at least 15% of the delegates to their state or district convention. Anyone wanting to join the primary via petition for a General Assembly seat or Judge of Probate must collect signatures from at least 5% of the enrolled party members in a particular district. Primary petitions for candidates for single town State Representative and Judge of Probate, and Registrar of Voters become available on May 21, 2014. Petitions for multi-town General Assembly and Judge of Probate districts become available on May 27, 2014.

Primary petitions for statewide, congressional and multi-town districts are obtainable at the Secretary of the State's Office at 30 Trinity Street in Hartford, while single town primary petitions are available at local Registrars of Voters. The completed petitions must be delivered in person either to the Secretary of the State's offices or to the Registrar of Voters offices in the towns where the petitions were collected. Polls will be open from 6:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. for registered Democrats and Republicans to cast ballots in the statewide primary August 12, 2014.