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-PRESS RELEASE-

**MERRILL: NUMBER OF CT GENERAL
ASSEMBLY RACES UNCONTESTED BY
MAJOR PARTY RISES BY 56% IN 2014**

SECRETARY OF THE STATE RELEASES FIGURES INDICATING THE FIRST INCREASE
IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY SEATS LACKING REPUBLICAN OR DEMOCRATIC
CANDIDATES SINCE 2004

HARTFORD: Secretary of the State Denise Merrill today is reporting the number of Connecticut General Assembly races not contested by a major party in 2014 is 56% higher than the same figure reported in 2012. A total of 50 out of 187 districts for State Senate or State House lack either a Democratic or Republican candidate this year as compared with 32 total contests unchallenged by a major party in 2012, an increase of 56.25%.

“It is a bit surprising to see so many General Assembly seats not contested by a Republican or Democratic candidate this election season,” said Secretary Merrill, Connecticut’s chief elections official. “There has been a steady decline in the number of uncontested races since 2004; that has coincided with the availability of public campaign funds through the Citizens’ Election Program. The number of uncontested races in 2014 is still lower than its height 10 years ago, however one would expect more candidates stepping up to run this year, given all of the turnover in the CT General Assembly.”

In Connecticut State Senate races, eight of 36 (22.2%) districts are not being contested by one of the major parties, up from a figure of 5 such uncontested races in 2012. In races for the State House, 42 of the 151 districts (27.8%) are not being contested by one of the major parties, up from 27 such districts in 2012. That year, a total of 32 of 187 seats (17.11%) for State Senate or State House lacked either a Democratic or Republican candidate. In 2014, that number has jumped to 50 out of 187 legislative districts (26.73%).

Secretary Merrill is also reminding voters that statewide primaries for registered Democrats and Republicans are quickly approaching on Tuesday August 12, 2014. Voters can register online by going to www.sots.ct.gov. To register to vote by mail, voter registration cards must be received by the local Registrar of Voters by Thursday August 7th. The last day for in person registration at town offices is Monday, August 11th at 12:00 p.m. Unaffiliated voters face those same deadlines if they wish to register with a major party and vote in the primary. Voters can go to www.sots.ct.gov to register to vote online, find polling locations, download absentee ballot applications and view lists of candidates.

State Senate Races

<i>Year</i>	<i>Uncontested by a Major Party</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
1998	7 out of 36	19.5%
2000	11 out of 36	30.6%
2002	8 out of 36	22.2%
2004	13 out of 36	36.2%
2006	9 out of 36	25%
2008	7 out of 36	19.4%
2010	6 out of 36	16.7%
2012	5 out of 36	13.9%
2014	8 out of 36	22.2%

State Senate districts uncontested by Republican candidates: 6, 9, 10, 11

State Senate districts uncontested by Democratic candidates: 16, 24, 34, 36

State House Races

<i>Year</i>	<i>Uncontested by a Major Party</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
1998	43 out of 151	28.5%
2000	60 out of 151	40.4%
2002	50 out of 151	33.1%
2004	60 out of 151	40.4%
2006	62 out of 151	41%
2008	53 out of 151	35%
2010	48 out of 151	31.8%
2012	27 out of 151	17.9%
2014	42 out of 151	27.8%

State House districts uncontested by Republican candidates:

4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 18, 29, 30, 39, 43, 48, 49,
51, 73, 84, 91, 93, 94, 95, 96, 115, 124,
126, 127, 129, 140

State House districts uncontested by Democratic candidates:

17, 31, 50, 62, 69, 70, 71, 74, 108, 113,
122, 125, 131, 135, 141, 151