



DENISE W. MERRILL

SECRETARY OF THE STATE
CONNECTICUT

For Immediate Release:
November 2, 2015

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

- PRESS RELEASE -

SECRETARY MERRILL: CONNECTICUT IS READY TO VOTE!

SECRETARY OF THE STATE REMINDS ELIGIBLE VOTERS OF ELECTION DAY
REGISTRATION, ELECTION HOTLINE; REMINDS VOTERS TO GO ONLINE, LOOK
AT TOWN BALLOTS, CHECK REGISTRATION STATUS AND WHERE TO VOTE

HARTFORD: Secretary of the State Denise Merrill today declared that Connecticut is ready for nearly 1.91 million active registered voters in towns holding municipal elections tomorrow to cast ballots. Secretary Merrill is reminding eligible voters about the Election Day Hotline to be jointly monitored with the State Elections Enforcement Commission, as well as acceptable forms of voter identification, Election Day Registration procedures and the volunteer attorney partnership with the Connecticut Bar Association to have a group of attorneys trained in election law serve as designees on Election Day authorized to enter and review any polling place for compliance with state and federal election law. In addition, the city of Hartford has a state-appointed election monitor to help coordinate preparations and execution of Election Day.

“Many important local issues will face voters as they go to the polls for the 2015 municipal elections, and we are ready to vote,” said Secretary Merrill, Connecticut’s chief elections official. “We are on the job for Election Day, keeping an eye on things to make sure we have an orderly election. We are expecting a turnout of 30% of registered voters, though that will vary greatly from town to town. My office along with the State Elections enforcement Commission will be ready to respond if any problems arise. Our hotline is up and running, so please call or email us with any concerns. I am continually grateful for the partnership with the Connecticut Bar Association to provide the state with a corps of volunteer attorneys who can serve as the eyes and ears of my office should an issue at a local polling place require further examination. Any eligible citizens not yet registered can go to a central location in their city or town, register and vote tomorrow. I urge all eligible voters to cast their ballot and make their voices heard.”

Election Day Hotline:

Secretary Merrill once again released the Election Day Hotline in coordination with the State Elections Enforcement Commission which is **1-866-SEEC-INFO** or **1-866-733-2463** in addition to an email hotline elections@ct.gov should voters encounter any difficulties at the polls. Secretary Merrill’s office will be conducting several coordination

conference calls throughout the day with counterparts at the State Elections Enforcement Commission to monitor any potential irregularities or problems at the polls. As voters head to the polls tomorrow, Secretary Merrill urged voters to go online to www.myvote.ct.gov to see where their polling place is located, view sample ballots from their town, or find a location for Election Day Registration.

Volunteer Attorney Program:

Once again Secretary Merrill is once again working in concert with the Connecticut Bar Association pursuant to authority granted to her office in 2011 when the Connecticut General Assembly overwhelmingly passed [Public Act 11-46](#) which states, in part: "...the Secretary of the State, or the Secretary's designee, shall be allowed access to each polling place within the state during any municipal, state or federal election, primary or recanvass for the purpose of reviewing each polling place and recanvass for compliance with state and federal law." Volunteer attorneys from the Connecticut Bar Association will be on call throughout the state available respond if asked by Secretary Merrill's office. The designees will only be dispatched to a polling place if a particular problem is reported to the Secretary of the State's office and Secretary Merrill determines it is necessary to receive independent confirmation of reported information. Designees have no authority in the polling place other than to observe the local administration of elections and report back to Secretary Merrill on the compliance with state and federal election laws. The volunteer attorneys have been trained in election administration by the Secretary of the State's office, and have signed an agreement that they will not act in a partisan way on Election Day. In total, more than 100 Connecticut attorneys have volunteered to participate in the program, and are ready to serve in communities all over the state.

Voter ID/Election Day Registration:

Secretary Merrill is also reminding voters to bring with them some form of identification when they go to cast a ballot. A driver's license will suffice in all cases but if a voter does not have a government issued photo ID then a bank statement, utility bill, paystub, social security card or other forms of identification are also acceptable. Voters should go online at www.myvote.ct.gov to see a complete list of acceptable forms of voter identification. Eligible voters in Connecticut who are not registered to vote can still vote through Election Day Registration, citizens are encouraged to go online to the Secretary of the State's website to search for the Election Day Registration in their city or town.

Polls will be open tomorrow from 6:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. for Election Day 2015. A total of 165 Connecticut municipalities will be holding local elections tomorrow, the towns of Andover, Bethany, Union and Woodbridge held municipal elections in May.