



**DENISE W. MERRILL**  
SECRETARY OF THE STATE  
CONNECTICUT

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- PRESS RELEASE -

## **SPECIAL ELECTION CALLED IN 121<sup>ST</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT**

SECRETARY OF THE STATE RECEIVED WRIT OF SPECIAL ELECTION FROM THE  
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR MALLOY FRIDAY MORNING; DEADLINE FOR MAJOR  
PARTIES TO ENDORSE A CANDIDATE IS MONDAY, DECEMBER 28<sup>TH</sup>

**HARTFORD:** Secretary of the State Denise W. Merrill today announced a special election to fill the vacancy left by the loss of Stratford state Rep. Terry Backer.

Secretary Merrill received the Writ of Special Election from the office of Governor Dannel P. Malloy at 11:58 a.m. on Friday December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015. The election for the office of State Representative for the 121<sup>st</sup> Assembly District will be held on Tuesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016.

Secretary Merrill said, "As we continue to mourn the loss of Rep. Terry Backer, we know the people of Stratford will go to the polls with heavy hearts. However, we also recognize that we honor his legacy by participating in the democratic process and electing a worthy successor to finish Terry's term."

The remainder of the term runs until January 4, 2017.

The deadline for nominations by major political parties is Monday, December 28, 2015. Anyone seeking a spot on the ballot may apply to the Secretary of the State's office for a nominating petition, which would also need to be submitted to the Town Clerk by December 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Such a petition would require the number of signatures of registered voters equivalent to one percent of the votes cast for the same office in the preceding election. For State Representative of the 121<sup>st</sup> Assembly District, 55 signatures would be needed.

The Town Clerk will file the nominating petitions by Wednesday December 30<sup>th</sup> and the list of nominations by December 31<sup>st</sup> with the Secretary of the State's office. Write-in candidates have until January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016, to register with the Secretary of the State's office.

Polls will be open from 6:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 2, 2016, in General Assembly District 121.

This special election will fill the vacancy left by the death of state Rep. Terry Backer on December 14<sup>th</sup>. Backer, a beloved champion of the environment, was first elected to the Connecticut House of Representatives in 1992.