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SECRETARY MERRILL SELECTS PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY BALLOT ORDER

HARTFORD: Secretary of the State Denise Merrill was joined by students from the Law & Government Academy at Hartford Public High School to set the order of the ballot for Connecticut's April 26 primary election.

Secretary Merrill said, "This has been an exciting election with a lot of interest and it looks like it will remain competitive for a long while yet. Connecticut will have a chance to make its voice heard in the democratic process on April 26. However to cast your ballot in the April primary you must be registered with a party. If you are a new or unaffiliated voter, it is not too late."

The order of the ballot will be as follows on the Democratic line:

- Roque "Rocky" De La Fuente; Hillary Clinton; Bernie Sanders; Uncommitted

The order of the ballot will be as follows on the Republican line:

- Ted Cruz; Ben Carson; Donald J. Trump; John R. Kasich; Uncommitted

In addition to students from the Law & Government Academy, the Connecticut Historical Society participated in the event as well. The Society brought a basket that once belonged to Nathan Hale from which the Secretary drew the names.

The selection was made pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes 9-470, which states, "The secretary shall determine by lot, in a public ceremony held on the thirty-fifth day preceding the day of the primary, the order in which the names of the candidates will appear on the ballot of

each party at such primary; provided that the category ‘uncommitted’ shall appear last on such ballots.”

The deadline for new voters and for unaffiliated voters to enroll in a party for the primary is April 21 via mail or April 25 in person. More details available at the election calendar: http://www.sots.ct.gov/sots/lib/sots/electionservices/calendars/2016_election/2016_ppp_calendar.pdf

Polls will be open on April 26, 2012 from 6:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. for registered Republicans and Democrats in Connecticut for the presidential preference primary.

Of note: The presidential primary does not directly select actual delegates to the national party conventions. Rather, it determines the number of delegate positions allocated to each Presidential candidate, statewide and/or by Congressional District as the case may be. This apportionment of delegate seats “won” is done according to the applicable “proportional representation” formula, if any, prescribed by national party rules; or on a “winner takes all” basis if so authorized by such rules; or by the formula specified in the state law if the party rules provide neither a formula nor a winner-takes-all requirement.

The Secretary of the State tabulates the primary returns, calculates the allocation of delegate positions to candidates, and certifies the results to the national and state parties and to the candidates. The procedure for actual selection of the delegates is governed by the rules of each party—provided that the party must select and certify the correct number of delegates committed to each candidate as so determined.