DENISE MERRILL
SECRETARY OF THE STATE
CONNECTICUT

- NEWS RELEASE -

MERRILL: NEARLY 90,000 NEW VOTERS REGISTER IN CONNECTICUT IN ADVANCE OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

SECRETARY OF THE STATE MARKS NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY WITH CT ELECTION PROJECT TO TURN 2012 VOTE INTO TEACHABLE MOMENT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

HARTFORD: Secretary of the State Denise Merrill today marked National Voter Registration Day by reporting that since the beginning January 1, 2012 nearly 90,000 new voters have registered in Connecticut making themselves eligible to vote in the November 6th general election. Secretary Merrill also marked the day by outlining an unprecedented effort to turn the 2012 Presidential election into a teachable moment for Connecticut primary and secondary school students. The Connecticut Election Project – launched this fall by Secretary Merrill – has developed a multi-faceted curriculum for elementary through high school teachers to involve students in the many lessons to be learned through the election process. From the science of public opinion polling to voter trends, media and money in politics and the administration of elections – dozens of teachers from across the state have been using the elections to teach their students these lessons playing out in real-time. Information on the project is online at www.sots.ct.gov

"Now we are coming into the time of year when many people are beginning to focus on the critical questions facing our country and our state as we head to the polls on November 6th," said Secretary Merrill, Connecticut's chief elections official. "We can see that nearly 2,000,000 people are registered to vote in our state with nearly 90,000 new voters since the beginning of this year. This is going to be a big turnout election and it is critical that we reach out to the newer generation of voters through efforts like the CT Election project. This way students can learn about elections not as history – but as events happening right in front of their very eyes. I am very proud to mark National Voter Registration Day by strengthening our efforts to improve civic education. And Eligible voters in Connecticut should know: you still have until October 30th to register for the Presidential election. Make sure your voice is heard – register to vote today!"

Since January 1, 2012, more than 89,823 new voters have registered in Connecticut. As was the case in 2008, young people (18-29 years-old) represent the largest group of new voters in the state with 39,277 registering so far this year. Currently, there are 1,992,285 active registered voters in Connecticut. Among newly registered voters some 30,736 registered as Democrats and 17,115 registered as Republicans, while 39,602 registered as unaffiliated. The Office of the Secretary of the State maintains an aggressive voter registration program working closely with community groups, high schools, universities and others to expand civic involvement among Connecticut residents.

Secretary Merrill encourages voters to go online to www.sots.ct.gov to find out if they are registered to vote and where their polling place is located. Absentee ballots will also become available to registered Connecticut voters by October 5, 2012. Polls will be open for the Presidential election from 6:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. on November 6, 2012.

ACTIVE VOTERS IN CONNECTICUT AS OF SEPTEMBER 24, 2012

PARTY	COUNT
A Better Future	6
A Connecticut Party	4
A Sentinel Party	26
Canterbury First	2
Chatham Party	9
Concerned Citizens	184
Connecticut For Lieberman	78
Democratic	732,201
Enfield Taxpayers Party	2
Friends Of Saybrook	14
Green	1,696
Guilty	1
Independence	800
Independence For Montville	7
Independent	10,909
Independent Choice	1
Independent Party of Darien	1
Libertarian	1,332
Milford Independent Party	3
Norwich for Change	1
Pro-Bethel	2
Realistic Balance	3
Reform	83
Republican	417,615
Swing	2
The Hampton Party	1
Unaffiliated	827,037
We The People	46
Winsted Independent	36
Working Families	183
	==========
TOTAL	1,992,285

VOTERS ADDED SINCE JANUARY 1, 2012

Party	Count
Chatham Party	1
Concerned Citizens	1
Connecticut For Lieberman	4
Democratic	**30,736**
Friends Of Saybrook	1
Green	85
Independence	36
Independent	1,812
Independent Choice	1
Independent Party of Darien	1
Libertarian	136
Reform	4
Republican	**17,115**
Swing	1
Unaffiliated	**39,602**
We The People	4
Winsted Independent	1
Working Families	24
	===========
TOTAL	**89,823**

NEW VOTERS SINCE 1/1/12 AGE 18 THRU 29

PARTY	COUNT
Concerned Citizens	1
Connecticut For Lieberman	2
Democratic	**12,844**
Green	48
Independence	14
Independent	926
Independent Choice	1
Libertarian	75
Reform	2
Republican	**7,083**
Swing	1
Unaffiliated	**18,262**
We The People	2
Working Families	16
	===========
TOTAL	**39,277**

NEW VOTERS SINCE 1/1/12 AGE 30 TO 44

PARTY	COUNT
Chatham Party	1
Connecticut For Lieberman	1

PARTY	COUNT
Democratic	**7,189**
Green	28
Independence	11
Independent	340
Independent Party of Darien	1
Libertarian	41
Reform	1
Republican	**4,021**
Unaffiliated	**9,531**
We The People	1
Working Families	5
	==========
TOTAL	**21,171**

NEW VOTERS SINCE 1/1/2012 AGE 45 TO 59

PARTY	COUNT
Democratic	**5,790**
Green	7
Independence	4
Independent	296
Libertarian	11
Reform	1
Republican	**3,350**
Unaffiliated	**6,080**
We The People	1
Winsted Independent	1
Working Families	1
	==========
TOTAL	**15,542**

NEW VOTERS SINCE 1/1/12 AGE 60 AND UP

PARTY	COUNT
Connecticut For Lieberman	1
Democratic	**4,520**
Friends Of Saybrook	1
Green	2
Independence	7
Independent	220
Libertarian	8
Republican	**2,661**
Unaffiliated	**4,966**
Working Families	2
	==========
TOTAL	**12,388**