

# WEST VIRGINIA -ELECTION CONNECTION-

*Your source for Election News from Secretary of State Natalie E. Tennant*

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Issue 4 – November 1, 2011

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## **27 Weeks Until the May Primary!**

On Tuesday, November 1 there will be exactly 27 weeks until the May Primary! The Secretary of State’s Office has distributed our calendars for the 2012 election. It has dozens of deadlines, requirements, and procedures listed. If you need more calendars, please feel free to contact us and we will get them to you as soon as possible.

## **Running For Office 2012 Handbook Available Now**

The updated Running for Office 2012 book is available now. All dates, deadlines, offices on the ballot, filing fees, salaries, and legislative districts have been updated to reflect the 2012 election season. If you haven’t already, please contact the Elections Division at (304)558-6000 or [dnichols@wvsos.com](mailto:dnichols@wvsos.com) to let them know how many you will need.

## **Tomblin To Take Office November 13**

Governor-Elect Earl Ray Tomblin has announced there will be a special session of the State Legislature at noon on November 13, 2011. Secretary Tennant will present the certificates of election results to a joint session of the Legislature at that time, and Governor-Elect Tomblin will take the oath of office as West Virginia’s 35<sup>th</sup> Governor at 3:00 in the afternoon on that day. Certified election results can be seen on the Secretary of State’s website at [www.wvsos.com](http://www.wvsos.com).

## **Tennant Talks Online Voting In Connecticut**

Secretary Tennant participated in a panel discussion about online voting last week in Connecticut. The Online Voting Symposium, hosted by Connecticut Secretary of State Denise Merrill, was held at Central Connecticut State University. Tennant told the other panelists about West Virginia's successful pilot program that gave overseas citizens and deployed military the option of voting using the internet. She also reported that West Virginia experienced no breaches of security when using the online method. All told, 165 people voted using the online option. Tennant said the West Virginia pilot program received a great deal of positive feedback, and that for the overseas citizens and deployed military, the simple act of casting a ballot was deeply meaningful.

### **HAVA Grant Applications**

If your county would like to request a Help America Vote Act grant, please contact Layna Brown in the Secretary of State's Office at (304) 558-6000 or [lbrown@wvsos.com](mailto:lbrown@wvsos.com). This year, the Secretary of State's Office awarded \$6,000 HAVA grants to both Boone and Mercer Counties to purchase signs for each precinct to direct disabled voters to an accessible entrance. Roane County was also awarded a HAVA grant to purchase a new, easier to open door at the senior center in Amma. Last October, the Secretary of State's Office awarded an Americans With Disabilities Act grant to Wood County to pave the gravel parking lot of a precinct located at a church. That grant, for \$9,757, made it easier for voters with disabilities to make it to the polls and helped with traffic flow. And last week, Secretary Tennant personally delivered a check for \$4,820 to Putnam County to install a hydraulic fluid cooling unit on the courthouse's elevator. During the peak days of early voting, hundreds of people use the elevator to access the early voting location. When the oil in the elevator's motor gets too hot, a safety mechanism shuts down the elevator. This means other procedures have to be put in place to make sure elderly or voters with disabilities can cast their ballot. With a new oil cooler, the elevator will not shut down and people will continue to have easy access to the early voting location.

### **Election Connection Online!**

You can see back issues of the Election Connection newsletter on the Secretary of State's website at [www.wvsos.com](http://www.wvsos.com). To view them, click on "Election Connection" under the "Secretary's Desk" heading on the front page. The issues can be seen in PDF format. If your computer cannot open a PDF file, please email Jake Glance at [jglance@wvsos.com](mailto:jglance@wvsos.com) and he will be able to email you a plain text version.

### **Statewide Voter Registration System Questions?**

To help us track and resolve issues that election officials may have with the Statewide Voter Registration System, we have set up a special email address. You can now email your questions, suggestions, or concerns regarding SVRS to [svrs@wvsos.com](mailto:svrs@wvsos.com).

### **Have an idea?**

Is there something that you want to see addressed in the Election Connection? The goal of this newsletter is to keep everyone up to date about challenges facing election officials in West Virginia and to inform everyone about best practices that are being put into place. If you have an idea for a topic, have a question, or if you think there is a subject that election officials around the state would be interested in, please do not hesitate to contact the Secretary of State's Office. You can contact the Elections Division by email at [elections@wvsos.com](mailto:elections@wvsos.com) or (304) 558-6000 or Jake Glance directly at [jglance@wvsos.com](mailto:jglance@wvsos.com). Your input is appreciated!