

# WEST VIRGINIA -ELECTION CONNECTION-

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

---

Issue 6 – November 15, 2011

In this issue ...

- 2012 Primary Countdown
- Redistricting Oral Arguments
- Redistricting Questions and Applicable Code Sections
- Governor Tomblin Takes The Oath
- Secretary Tennant Recognizes Election Workers On Accomplishments
- The Secretary of State's Office on Facebook and Twitter
- Where you can get your 2012 Running For Office Handbook
- Where you can see past issues of the Election Connection
- How you can submit an idea for the Election Connection

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

On Tuesday, November 15 there will be exactly 25 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.

## **Redistricting Oral Arguments**

Oral arguments for the 2011 Legislative Redistricting Cases against the Secretary of State's Office will take place on Thursday, November 17, 2011 at 10:00am in the Supreme Court of Appeals. You can watch this live by clicking [here](#).

## **Redistricting Questions and Applicable Code Sections**

Our office has received several calls regarding the requirements for notifications after local district and precinct changes. The applicable code language is below:

*§3-1-7. Precinct changes; procedure; precinct record. (in part) (b) No order effecting the change, division or consolidation shall be made by the county commission within ninety days prior to an election nor without giving notice at least one month before the change, division or consolidation by publication of the notice as a Class II-0 legal advertisement in compliance with the provisions of article three, chapter fifty-nine of this code. The publication area is the county in which the precinct or precincts are located. The county commission shall also, within fifteen days after the date of the order, publish the order in the manner required for publication of the notice.*

*§7-2-2. Magisterial districts; boundary lines. (in part) But before such districts shall be increased or diminished, or the boundary lines thereof changed, the court shall*

*cause a notice of its intention to do so to be posted on the front door of the courthouse of the county, and at some public place in each district affected thereby, for at least thirty days prior to the term of court at which such action is proposed to be taken.*

If questions remain, please feel free to contact the Elections Division at [dnichols@wvsos.com](mailto:dnichols@wvsos.com).

### **Governor Tomblin Takes Oath of Office**

Earl Ray Tomblin took the oath of office as West Virginia's 35<sup>th</sup> Governor during a wind-swept ceremony on a sunny Sunday afternoon at the State Capitol. His inauguration marks the end of an unprecedented time in our state's history. The inauguration ceremony in its entirety can be seen on the Secretary of State's Office website at [www.wvsos.com](http://www.wvsos.com). If you want to skip to the beginning of Governor Tomblin's speech, it begins at the 25:40 mark. However, if you get a chance to listen to the Parkersburg High School Chamber Choir sing "Home Among The Hills," it is highly recommended and begins at the 11:20 mark.

### **Secretary Tennant Recognizes Election Workers on Accomplishments**

Secretary Tennant, in a press release issued just after Governor Tomblin took office, recognized election officials from the around the state for their work during an unprecedented time for our state. Secretary Tennant pointed out that during the first three years of her term, there have been five statewide elections, with two more set for 2012. In a "normal" four year term, a Secretary of State would oversee four statewide elections. Secretary Tennant expressed her appreciation and admiration for election officials around the state for their hard work during this time, and said that all West Virginians should be proud of their efforts to make sure that the voters of our state have the opportunity to go to the polls and take part in fair, honest, and open elections. But now is not the time for relaxing – the next primary election is only 25 weeks away! You can read the press release on the Secretary of State's website at [www.wvsos.com](http://www.wvsos.com).

### **Find the Secretary of State's Office on Facebook and Twitter**

If you have a Facebook account (about 800 million people in the world do!) or a Twitter account (about 200 million people do!) you can follow the West Virginia Secretary of State's Office. This is one of the best ways to stay updated with what is going on at the State Capitol. You can see pictures and videos, and you may also find out something that wasn't issued as a press release or included in the Election Connection. **And as a hint:** Press releases are first published through Facebook and Twitter. So if you want to know the "news" even before reporters find out, "Like" us on Facebook and "Follow" us on Twitter. Just go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and search for "Office of West Virginia Secretary of State Natalie E. Tennant" and go to [www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com) and search for "Natalie E. Tennant."

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

We've had several requests for the Running for Office in West Virginia 2012 Handbook. 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.

### **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.

### **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.