

# WEST VIRGINIA -ELECTION CONNECTION-

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

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Issue 8 – November 29, 2011

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

On Tuesday, November 29 there will be exactly 23 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 Supreme Court Decision**

The West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals has issued their ruling in several lawsuits that were filed regarding the redistricting plan passed by the state legislature. The court ruled that the plan is constitutional. The decision came on November 23, more than one week before the December 1 deadline requested by the Secretary of State’s Office.

Secretary Tennant issued the following statement minutes after the decision was announced:

“I am happy that the Supreme Court issued a ruling so quickly. We had asked for a decision by December 1, because election officials are facing some very pressing deadlines. This decision removes any uncertainty election officials may have had regarding redistricting. County clerks will have to notify voters of any changes that affect them, and by law that must be done in a matter of weeks.

“This case clearly illustrates how our three branches of government work: The legislative branch crafts and passes the laws, the executive branch puts those laws into place, and if a citizen wants to challenge any law they can petition the judicial branch.”

You can read more on the Secretary of State’s website at [www.wvsos.com](http://www.wvsos.com).

## **Who is running for statewide office?**

The Secretary of State's Office has received numerous media inquiries regarding candidates in the 2012 races – and reporters may soon be calling your offices to see who is running next year. The Secretary of State's Office has a web page dedicated to listing those who have filed pre-candidacy papers for offices such as Attorney General, Auditor, Commissioner of Agriculture, Governor, House of Delegates, and State Senate. The web page also lists those who have filed pre-candidacy papers but who have yet to declare which office they will be seeking in 2012. The page is updated each time a candidate files the appropriate paperwork with the Secretary of State's Office. You can check out the page here (and direct media this way as well): <http://apps.sos.wv.gov/elections/candidate-search/index.aspx>.

### **Secretary of State Staff, County Clerks Observe Virginia Elections**

Two teams of election administrators from West Virginia traveled to Virginia to observe that state's election processes on November 8, 2011. Two county clerks – Jan Pest of Marshall County and Vera McCormick of Kanawha County – served as part of the observation teams. The groups were able to view operations at local registrar offices, the Virginia State Board of Elections, and several polling places in northern and central Virginia. The trip allowed for the exchange of ideas, the evaluation of administrative practices, and the opportunity to observe various voting systems and e-poll books in use.

### **"2011: West Virginia's Year" Preview Available Now**

Right now on the Secretary of State's website, you can see a preview trailer of the year in review video, which is currently in production. The "trailer" runs about 50 seconds, and gives a peek at what will be included in the full length video. Special elections, special sessions, redistricting, the NASS conference, and vote-by-mail will all be included. Check it out now 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."

### **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.