

WEST VIRGINIA -ELECTION CONNECTION-

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

Issue 45 – August 28, 2012

In this issue ...

- General Election timeline
- Certified List of 2012 General Election Candidates
- Poll Worker Training Videos
- Important upcoming dates
- Exit Polling on Election Day
- How you can submit an item to the Election Connection

10 Weeks Until Election Day!

On Tuesday, August 28, there will be exactly 10 weeks until the November 6 General Election!

Tennant Certifies List of 2012 General Election Candidates

On Friday, Secretary Tennant certified the list of 2012 General Election candidates.

You can read the entire list here on the Secretary of State's website:
<http://www.sos.wv.gov/elections/Documents/Statewide%20General.pdf>.

You will notice that two recognizable names are missing from the roster of Presidential candidates. That's because President Barack Obama and Governor Mitt Romney have not been formally nominated by their respective political parties.

Once we have received the official nominations from the Republican and Democratic National Conventions, Secretary Tennant will send a new certification with the appropriate names.

Poll Worker Training Videos

The poll worker training videos have been shot and are now being edited. The expected date for completion is late September, with the new DVD's being in the hands of County Clerks by October 1.

If you plan on holding your poll worker training sessions before October 1, please email Jake Glance at jglance@wvsos.com.

Special thanks go out to the office of Kanawha County Clerk Vera McCormick. Her staff allowed us to borrow several pieces of equipment (ballot boxes, voting booths, secrecy shields) that were vital to making the poll worker training videos.

Important Dates Coming Up

- **September 5, 2012 (Deadline):** Complete Corrections of Voter Registration (Within 120 days following primary election)
 - o County clerk shall, as evidenced by the presence or absence of signatures on the poll books from the primary election, correct any errors or omissions on the voter registration records resulting from the poll clerks erroneously checking or failing to check the registration records; or shall enter the voting records into the state uniform data system if the precinct books have been replaced with printed registration books. (§ 3-1-34, 3-2-18(d), 3-2-21)
- **September 7, 2012 (Deadline):** Emergency Order to Change Precincts (No later than sixty days before the general election)
 - o Last day for county commission, in case of emergency and with permission of the Secretary of State, to enter an order to consolidate, divide or change the boundaries of any precinct within a county. Within 15 days after such order is issued, the county commission shall publish the order as Class II-0 legal advertisement. Notice must be given one month prior to entering this order – August 7, 2012. (§ 3-1-7(g), 59-3-1 et. seq.)
- **September 11, 2012:** Notice of Number of Sets of Emergency Absentee Voting Commissioners Needed (On or before the fifty-sixth day preceding the election) The county clerk, shall notify the county commission of the number of sets of emergency absentee ballot commissioners which he or she deems necessary to perform the duties. (§ 3-3-5c(b))
- **September 18, 2012 (Deadline):** Election Officials and Alternates Appointed (No later than the forty-ninth day before the election)
 - o The county commission shall appoint the election officials for each designated election board as follows: (1) eligible persons nominated and timely filed by the executive committees as poll clerks, election commissioners; (2) the additional persons selected by the county commission to serve as election commissioners; (3) persons to fill any positions for which no nominations were filed. The county commission shall also appoint emergency absentee voting commissioners. At the same meeting or at a subsequent meeting, the county commission shall appoint the alternates nominated by the executive committees, appoint additional alternates and determine the number of persons who may be instructed to attend training as alternates. (§ 3-1-30, 3-4-13, 3-4A-14, 3-3-5c)
- **September 18-November 6, 2012:** Election Officials and Alternates Appointed (No later than the forty-ninth day before the election)
 - o The county commission shall appoint the election officials for each designated election board as follows: (1) eligible persons nominated and timely filed by the executive committees as poll clerks, election commissioners; (2) the additional persons selected by the county commission to serve as election commissioners; (3) persons to fill any positions for which no nominations were filed. The county commission shall also appoint emergency absentee voting commissioners. At the

same meeting or at a subsequent meeting, the county commission shall appoint the alternates nominated by the executive committees, appoint additional alternates and determine the number of persons who may be instructed to attend training as alternates. (§ 3-1-30, 3-4-13, 3-4A-14, 3-3-5c)

- **September 21, 2012 (Deadline):** Delivery of Absentee Ballots to County Clerk (Not less than forty-six days prior to general election)
 - o Last day for board of ballot commissioners to have printed and delivered to county clerk the official absent voters' ballots. (§ 3-3-11, 3-4-10)
- **September 21 – October 31, 2012 (November 1 for applications received October 31, 2012):** Mail Absentee Ballots (Within one day after the clerk has both the completed application and the ballot. Ballots delivered at least 46 days before election and applications due no later than sixth day before election)
 - o Upon acceptance of a completed application, the county clerk determines whether the requirements have been met and mails official absent voter's ballot(s), envelopes, instructions, and any other supplies required for voting the ballot. If the clerk determines the requirements have not been met, the clerk gives notice that the ballot will be provisional. (§ 3-3-5)

Exit Polling On Election Day

Edison Research has been in contact with the Secretary of State's Office regarding exit polling for the November General Election. Just as in the 2010 General Election, Edison Research may be sending staff into county precincts to talk with voters after the voter has cast his or her ballot. The Secretary of State's Office has provided Edison Research with a credentials letter that all of their employees should be using. Edison Research has agreed to contact both the SOS office and any county they plan to visit prior to Election Day.

Edison Research is well aware and has been reminded that their employees are not permitted to be present inside the building housing the polling place, but can be inside the 300-foot limit. In order to try to prevent any incidences on election day, please remind your poll workers that employees of Edison Research may be at their polling places.

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 or (304) 558-6000 or Jake Glance directly at jglance@wvsos.com. Your input is appreciated.