

# WEST VIRGINIA -ELECTION CONNECTION-

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

---

Issue 19 – February 14, 2012

In this issue ...

- 2012 Primary Countdown
- Tennant to certify list of candidates
- Ballot position drawing procedure
- Doing a nonpartisan job in a hyper-partisan world
- New election law and reference manuals
- Campaign Finance Training
- How you can submit an idea for the Election Connection

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

On Tuesday, February 14 there will be exactly 12 weeks until the May Primary!

## **Tennant Certifies List of Candidates**

Tuesday at 5:00 Secretary Tennant certified the list of 2012 candidates, as laid out in West Virginia Code §3-5-9.

This full, statewide list will be posted in the Elections Division, published to the Secretary of State's website and emailed to each county. The Elections Division will also mail a list of all candidates for each individual county to the respective County Clerk.

The names of all candidates for Congressional District Delegate to the Republican National Convention (RNC) in your Congressional District will be on your county's ballot. Please remember when drawing ballot positions that you do not draw individual names. According to W.Va. State Code §3-5-13a(b)(4) [*page 348 in the new, blue Code Book*], the candidates are grouped together by presidential candidate commitment (and uncommitted) and the random drawing is for the names of the presidential candidates/uncommitted. The process is the same for the At-large candidates for Delegates to the RNC.

## **Ballot Position Drawing Procedure**

Several counties have contacted the Secretary of State's Office with questions about the drawing ballot order.

Though the Secretary of State conducted the random drawing for the 2010 and 2011 Special Primaries that was a situation specific to the language authorizing those elections.

**For the 2012 Primary Election, the Secretary of State will not be drawing for the ballot order of any candidates.** We are all back on the regular cycle now and things are back to normal. From President to Board of Education, counties will conduct the random drawing for the ballot order in their county.

Counties will have to conduct two separate random drawing for Delegate to the Republican National Convention – one for the at-large candidates and one for the congressional district candidates in your county.

For the random drawings for each race you will draw the names of the candidates for President again and add “Uncommitted” to the list.

The candidates are sorted by presidential preference or uncommitted in the order they were randomly drawn and then listed in alphabetical order.

If you have questions about the procedure, please contact the Elections Division at (304)558-6000.

### **Doing a Nonpartisan Job In a Hyper-Partisan World**

Here is an interesting article published last week on electionline.org that tells the story of election workers staying non-partisan during times of intense political debate. The article can be found here: <http://www.electionline.org/index.php/electionline-weekly>.

### **New Election Law and Reference Manuals**

Because Secretary Tennant’s name is on the ballot in 2012, we are asking counties to cover the name on the outside cover in the manner county clerks determine to be most suitable. This is an effort to avoid any appearance of impropriety or charges of electioneering within the polling place.

### **Campaign Finance Training**

The Secretary of State’s Office will be conducting Campaign Finance Training throughout the state in February. The training sessions will be in Martinsburg on February 15, Fairmont on February 22, Wheeling on February 23, Logan on February 27, and Charleston on February 28. The training is primarily intended for candidates and treasurers, but other interested individuals are welcome to attend. The training sessions are free, but space is limited and registration is required. The training will include campaign finance law, filing deadlines, how to use the online campaign finance reporting system, and reviews of the forms and documentation. If you have questions, please contact Missi Kinder at [mkindler@wvsos.com](mailto:mkindler@wvsos.com) or Greg Watson at [gwatson@wvsos.com](mailto:gwatson@wvsos.com). You may also call the Secretary of State’s Office at (304) 558-6000.

### **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.