

WEST VIRGINIA -ELECTION CONNECTION-

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

Issue 20 – February 21, 2012

In this issue ...

- 2012 Primary Countdown
- Important dates coming up
- Campaign Finance Training underway
- New Election Law and Reference manuals
- Text alerts from the Secretary of State's Office
- How you can submit an idea for the Election Connection

11 Weeks Until the May Primary!

On Tuesday, February 21 there will be exactly 11 weeks until the May Primary!

Important Dates Coming Up

- **February 21:** Ballot position drawing (§ 3-5-13a)
- **February 27:** Executive Committees Fill Vacancies in Nomination by Appointment due to Withdrawal of Candidate (§ 3-5-19)
- **February 28:** (70 days before primary election): Secretary of State Certifies Candidates to County Clerk (§ 3-5-9, 3-5-12)
- **February 28:** Estimate Number of Absentee Ballots (§ 3-3-11(a))
- **February 28:** Candidate Name Removed from Ballot Due to Death (Before the ballots are printed) (§ 3-5-11(b))
- **February 28:** Election Official Nominations Filed (§3-1-30)

Campaign Finance Training Underway

The campaign finance training offered by the Secretary of State's Office is underway! The first event in Martinsburg drew more than a dozen people including candidates, treasurers, and curious citizens. The next campaign finance training event is Wednesday, February 22 in Fairmont. The event is free, but we ask that you call the Elections Division at (304) 558-6000 to register. Tomorrow's event is at the Marion County Parks and Recreation building at 35 City View Terrace from 1:00PM to 4:00PM, and then again at 6:00PM to 9:00PM. The events are geared toward candidates and treasurers, but citizens can also attend. There are three other events before next Tuesday: On February 23 in Wheeling in the second floor City Council Room at 1500 Chapline Street from 1:00PM to 4:00PM, and then again at 6:00PM to 9:00PM; on February 27 in Logan in the County Commission Room at 300 Stratton Street from 1:00PM to 4:00PM, and then again at 6:00PM to 9:00PM; and on February 28 in

Charleston in the Regents Room in State Capitol Building 7 from 1:00PM to 4:00PM, and then again at 6:00PM to 9:00PM. If you cannot attend one of these sessions, there will be video available of the Charleston session on the Secretary of State's website by Thursday, March 1.

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.

Text Message Alerts from The Secretary of State's Office

You can sign up for text message alerts on the Secretary of State's website! To sign up, just click on the link at the top of the Secretary of State's website. Then, just enter your 10 digit mobile phone number and your cellular carrier. You'll get information directly from the Secretary of State's Office – sent to you before it is made public through the media or social media like Twitter and Facebook. The service is free – all we ask is that you make sure your phone is on vibrate when you go into a movie theater!

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.