

WEST VIRGINIA -ELECTION CONNECTION-

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

Issue 18 – February 7, 2012

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13 Weeks Until the May Primary!

On Tuesday, February 7 there will be exactly 13 weeks until the May Primary!

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.

New Election Law and Reference Manuals

The 2011 version of the Election Law and Reference Manuals were sent from the printers on Friday. County Clerks Offices have already received their shipment of the new books, while others should receive them by Friday. The entire volume will be

available for download in Word document format and PDF on the Secretary of State's website by the end of this week.

Because Secretary Tennant's name is on the ballot in 2012, we are asking counties to cover the name on the outside cover of the books that are included in precinct kits. Please cover the name in the manner you determine to be most suitable. This is an effort to avoid any appearance of impropriety or charges of electioneering within the polling place.

Important Upcoming Dates To Remember

There are a couple deadlines coming up that you need to remember!

- **February 8, 2012:** Deadline for ordering precinct change.
- **February 8, 2012:** Adopt policy extending medical emergency absentee voting.
- **February 8, 2012:** Last day for petition for suspension of election official.
- **February 9, 2012:** Notice of emergency precinct change.
- **February 14, 2012:** Candidate withdraw deadline.
- **February 14, 2012:** Secretary of State's Office certifies list of candidates
- **February 21, 2012:** Drawing for position on ballot

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. Attached to this email is a flyer for the event. If you have questions, please contact Missi Kinder at mkinder@wvsos.com or Greg Watson at 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 or (304) 558-6000 or Jake Glance directly at jglance@wvsos.com. Your input is appreciated.