

WEST VIRGINIA -ELECTION CONNECTION-

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

Issue 17 – January 31, 2012

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14 Weeks Until the May Primary!

On Tuesday, January 31 there will be exactly 14 weeks until the May Primary!

Secretary of State, US Attorneys Announce Election Fraud Investigation

Secretary of State Natalie E. Tennant and United States Attorney for the Southern District of West Virginia Booth Goodwin announced Monday the resignation and guilty pleas of two elected officials in Lincoln County. County Clerk Donald Whitten and Sheriff Jerry Bowman plead guilty to federal charges accusing them of illegally manipulating absentee ballot applications and absentee ballots. Sentencing on the charges will take place at a later date. More information on the charges can be found on the Secretary of State's website at www.wvsos.com, including video of the press conference.

David Nichols named Secretary of NASED National Executive Committee

David Nichols, the Elections Manager in Secretary of State Natalie E. Tennant's Office, was elected to the National Association of State Elections Directors (NASED) Executive Committee during their annual conference last weekend in Washington, D.C. Nichols, who has served as West Virginia Elections Manager since January of 2009, was elected Secretary of the national committee. The committee is responsible for planning conferences and working with stakeholders to represent NASED as a group. Executive Committee members are considered leaders in administration of elections and are elected for a one year term. More information about NASED can be found on their website at www.nased.org.

Electronic Voting Systems Security Policy

Please remember the deadline to file the security policy for your electronic voting equipment is Wednesday, February 1. This written policy must include how the voting equipment is secured from tampering and under what circumstances county personnel are authorized to have access to the equipment. County Clerks can submit this policy by mail, by fax at (304) 558-8386, or by emailing it to Layna Brown at lbrown@wvsos.com. The letter that was sent to county clerks is attached to this email, as is a template for use as a guide when submitting the security policy.

More Important Dates To Remember

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

- **February 1, 2012:** Deadline to notify Secretary of State of security policy
- **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

Text Message Alerts Now Available

Want the latest election news sent right to your mobile phone? All you have to do is sign up for text message alerts from the Secretary of State's Office. The link to the subscription page is at the top of the Secretary of State's website at www.wvsos.com. To sign up all you have to do is enter your ten digit mobile phone number and your mobile carrier. Please remember that standard text message rates apply!

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 mkindler@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.