

WEST VIRGINIA -ELECTION CONNECTION-

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

Issue 24 – March 20, 2012

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7 Weeks Until the May Primary!

On Tuesday, March 20 there will be exactly 7 weeks until the May Primary!

Absentee Ballot Delivery

Today your office should have received a phone call from someone in the West Virginia Secretary of State's Office regarding the absentee ballot process for military and overseas voters.

These absentee ballots need to be mailed out by Friday, March 23rd, 2012 in order to be compliant with federal regulations.

The US Department of Justice has requested the most updated information on our progress with military and overseas absentee voters here in West Virginia, which is why we contacted you today. Representatives from our office will be having a meeting with the DOJ on Thursday of this week to discuss West Virginia's compliance with federal law in this area. We wanted to inform you as to why you were contacted today, keep you updated on the progress, and offer any further assistance that you may require. Your cooperation today was appreciated.

Important Dates Coming Up

- **March 20 - May 8:** (From date of notification through day of primary election) County Clerks Fill Vacancies of Election Officials (Poll workers) (§ 3-1-30)
- **March 23:** Approved Voter Registration Program for Eligible High School Students. (At an appropriate time during each school year, but no later than 45 days before a statewide primary election held during a school year) Last day for clerk of the county commission to conduct an approved program of voter registration services for eligible high school students at each high school within the county. (§ 3-2-8)

- **March 23:** Delivery of Absentee Ballots to County Clerk (Not less than forty-six days prior to the primary election) Last day for board of ballot commissioners to have printed and delivered to the county clerk official absent voters' ballots and supplies. (§ 3-3-11, 3-4-10)
- **March 23 - May 2, 2012:** (May 3 for applications received May 2, 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. 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, 3-3-11)
- **March 27:** Notice Mailed to Election Officials (Within seven days following appointment) County commission notifies, by first-class mail, all election commissioners, poll clerks and alternates of their appointment, including a response form. (§ 3-1-30(h))
- **March 27:** Write-In Candidate Filing Deadline for Primary (Board of Education and Conservation District Supervisor) (Received no later than the close of business forty two days before the election at which the office is to be filled.) Eligible person who seeks to be elected by write-in votes to an office which is to be filled in the primary (board of education and conservation district supervisor only) shall file a write-in candidate's certificate of announcement. (§ 3-6-4a)
- **March 31-April 6:** First Primary Report (or Annual Report)
 - Primary-First (PACS and 2010 candidate committees)
 - Annual (for previous candidate committees and open pre-candidates)
 - (On the last Saturday in March or within six days thereafter before primary election day campaign finance report due) Treasurers, financial agents and individuals making independent expenditures submit reports to the Secretary of State, county clerk, or municipal clerk, determined by which office is sought. A detailed itemized statement is submitted, setting forth all activity from the previous report or organization date, if the total amount of transactions during the reporting period are more than \$500. (§ 3-8-5, 3-8-5(b) CSR 146-3-8)
- **April 3:** (Deadline, depending on date of appointment) Election Officials Respond to Notification from Clerk (Within fourteen days following the date of appointment) When an election official or alternate fails to return the response notice or otherwise confirm to the county clerk his or her agreement to serve within the required time, the position shall be considered vacant and the clerk shall proceed to fill the vacancies. (§ 3-1-30(i))

EAC Roundtable Discussion

Secretary of State Policy Director Jackie Harris participated in a roundtable discussion sponsored by the EAC today in Washington, DC. According to the EAC, "Our

goal is to highlight and build on our role as a national clearinghouse and resource for election officials around the country as they prepare for the 2012 federal elections and beyond. This roundtable will provide a national platform for participants to share ideas and strategies for improving the administration of elections in the United States."

You can listen to the roundtable discussion in its entirety by logging on to the Media Center of the Secretary of State's website at <http://www.sos.wv.gov/news/Pages/SecretaryofStateMediaCenter.aspx>.

The roundtable discussion is lengthy – more than three hours. Jackie's portion of the roundtable begins about 50 minutes in to the discussion.

Upcoming Primary Elections and Caucuses

- March 20
 - o Illinois Primary (69 delegates)
- March 24
 - o Louisiana Primary (46)
- April 3
 - o District of Columbia Primary (19)
 - o Maryland Primary (37)
 - o Wisconsin Primary (42)
- April 24
 - o Connecticut Primary (28)
 - o Delaware Primary (17)
 - o New York Primary (95)
 - o Pennsylvania Primary (72)
 - o Rhode Island Primary (19)
- May 8
 - o Indiana Primary (46)
 - o North Carolina Primary (55)
 - o West Virginia Primary (31)
- May 15
 - o Nebraska Primary (35)
 - o Oregon Primary (28)
- May 22
 - o Arkansas Primary (36)
 - o Kentucky Primary (45)
- May 29
 - o Texas Primary (155)
- June 5
 - o California Primary (172)
 - o Montana Primary (26)
 - o New Jersey Primary (50)
 - o New Mexico Primary (23)
 - o South Dakota Primary (28)
- June 26
 - o Utah Primary (40)

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.