

WEST VIRGINIA -ELECTION CONNECTION-

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

Issue 25 – March 27, 2012

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6 Weeks Until the May Primary!

On Tuesday, March 27 there will be exactly 6 weeks until the May Primary!

Campaign Finance Reports Due

Campaign Finance Reports are due March 31, 2012 through April 6, 2011. Any candidate with an outstanding balance from an old campaign (2006, 2008, 2010, etc.) must file an Annual Report on all activity since their last report was filed. All candidates for 2012 have to file the Primary-First Report. This report must include any financial activity from the time the person filed as a pre-candidate or candidate through March 30, 2012. Political Action Committees must also file the Primary-First Report on all activity since their last report was filed after the 2011 General Election. If candidates or PACs have had less than \$500 in activity, they can file a Statement of Waiver and defer that reporting to the Pre-Primary Report due in April. More information is below in the "Important Dates" section.

Absentee Ballots Sent

As you are all aware, Friday was the deadline for counties to start sending out previously requested absentee ballots to military and overseas voters.

A total of 393 ballots were sent to UOCAVA voters on Friday! So, for some people it is Election Day!

Historic Voter Turnout Percentages

Here is some interesting information for election officials, if asked about historic voter turnout in the weeks leading up to the election.

- **2011 Special General Election:** 24.8% voter turnout (301,584 votes cast), 58, 087 early votes cast (19.3% of all votes cast).
- **2010 General Election:** 43.4% voter turnout (527,798 votes cast), 108,212 early votes cast (20.5% of all votes cast)
- **2010 Primary Election:** 23.9% voter turnout (287,724 votes cast), 40,557 early votes cast (14% of all votes cast)
- **2008 Primary Election:** 43% voter turnout (508,748 votes cast), 70,815 early votes cast (13.9% of all votes cast)
- **2004 Primary Election:** 39.1% voter turnout (432,228 votes cast), 27,226 early votes cast (6.3% of all votes cast)
- **2000 Primary Election:** 41.3% voter turnout (417,832 votes cast), there was no early voting in 2000 – EV began in 2002.
- **1996 Primary Election:** 47.1% voter turnout (427,535 votes cast)
- **1992 Primary Election:** 54% voter turnout (490,525 votes cast)

Voting Emphasis Weeks

Later this year, a couple of weeks have been set aside to focus on a particular voting issue.

June 29-July 7, 2012 is Armed Forces and Overseas Citizens Voters Week. This is an effort to get these voters registered, emphasizing the FPCA and Voting Assistance Officers.

September 30-October 7, 2012 is Absentee Voting Week. This is an effort to encourage voters to return their voted ballots immediately or use the FWAB.

If you have any creative ideas on how to celebrate these weeks (such as workshops, media events, etc) we can work together on them. If there are any events in your area we could partner with you on to educate the uniformed service members, their families, and overseas citizens on the process of registering to vote and casting a ballot, please let us know.

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 - 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)
 - o Primary-First (PACS and 2010 candidate committees)
 - o Annual (for previous candidate committees and open pre-candidates)
 - o (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))
- **April 9:** Instructional Program for Election Officials (Within thirty days prior to election) Clerk of county commission conducts instructional program using training materials produced by Secretary of State, to all election officials, explaining and illustrating procedures for conducting elections, duties of the various election officials and methods of voting. (§ 3-1-46(c), 3-4-13, 3-4A-14)
- **April 10 (Deadline):** Paper Ballots and Supplies Delivered to County Clerk (Not later than twenty-eight days before the election) All official ballots and voting machine labels shall be delivered to the county clerk of the appropriate county. The number of regular official ballots shall be equal to 80% of the number of active registered voters.
- **April 12-18:** Publish Sample Ballot for Early Voting (Not more than twenty-six nor less than twenty days preceding the primary election) Ballot commissioners publish sample official primary ballot for each party, nonpartisan candidates, and public questions as follows: (1) for counties in which two or more qualified newspapers publish a daily newspaper, publish a Class I-0 legal advertisement in the two qualified daily newspapers of different political parties within the county having the largest circulation; (2) for counties having no more than one daily newspaper, or having only one or more qualified weekly newspapers, publish sample as Class I legal

advertisement in qualified newspaper having largest circulation. (§ 3-5-10, 59-3-1 et. seq.)

Upcoming Presidential Primary Elections and Caucuses

- April 3
 - o District of Columbia Primary (19 delegates)
 - 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.