



DENISE MERRILL
SECRETARY OF THE STATE
CONNECTICUT

For Immediate Release:
September 25, 2013

For more information:
Av Harris (860) 509-6255
Cell (860) 463-5939

- NEWS RELEASE -

MERRILL LAUNCHES FIRST-EVER HIGH SCHOOL VOTER REGISTRATION CONTEST FOR NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY

SECRETARY OF THE STATE MARKS NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY WITH FOCUS ON THE NEXT GENERATION OF VOTERS

HARTFORD: In observance of National Voter Registration Day, this week Secretary of the State Denise Merrill launched the first-of-its-kind contest among Connecticut High School students to register as many Connecticut citizens to vote as possible in the next month in advance of the November 5, 2013 municipal elections. Tuesday September 24th marked National Voter Registration Day nationwide, and civic groups and Secretaries of State throughout the country held events and voter registration drive to increase citizen participation in elections. Secretary Merrill joined the New Haven Votes Coalition and Mayor John DeStefano for a voter registration drive outside New Haven city hall (above), followed by an even at Berlin High School in Berlin to launch the high school voter registration contest.



“One of my top goals as Secretary of the State is to increase voter participation,” said Secretary Merrill, Connecticut’s chief elections official. “We must focus on the next generation of voters and get them civically engaged in democracy early. I hope this contest inspires young people throughout our state to register citizens to vote in our crucial municipal elections. Not only is it important to vote, but I hope the competition can be a fun way to help our citizens make sure their voices can be heard in November.”

The voter registration contest can be conducted by any high school between now and October 22nd, the deadline to submit a voter registration application by mail. Schools will have until October 31st to submit their results to the Secretary of the State’s office. High school students are not limited to registering only students in their high school but can hold events out in the community to register citizens to vote or register citizens in other towns to vote as well. For more information about the contest rules or to download a submission form, [click here](#). The school team registering the most voters between now and October 22nd will win the prize of holding an AMA “Ask Me Anything” discussion with Secretary Merrill and U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal at the school of the winning team.

Right: Secretary Merrill appears Tuesday September 24, 2013 with Berlin High School Social Studies teacher Dave Bosso (2012 CT Teacher of the Year), State Representatives Joe Aresimowicz and Cathy Abercrombie, Berlin High students Jenna DelVecchio, Senior class President, and Suleyman Bozol, junior class President in an event at Berlin High School launching the 2013 High School voter registration contest as part of National Voter Registration Day.



National Voter Registration Day was established by [Non-Profit Vote](#) and the [National Association of Secretaries of State](#), which has also designated September as National Voter Registration month as a way to encourage more voter participation and higher voter turnout. More information about National Voter Registration Day is available by [clicking here](#).

Secretary Merrill is also reporting that according to the latest figures, there are some 2,014,504 active registered voters in Connecticut including 740,163 registered Democrats, 415,106 registered Republicans, and 840,936 unaffiliated voters in the state. Merrill encourages voters to go online to www.sots.ct.gov to find out if they are registered to vote and where their polling place is located. Absentee ballots will also become available to registered Connecticut voters by October 4, 2013. Polls will be open for municipal elections from 6:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. on November 5, 2013.

ACTIVE VOTERS IN CONNECTICUT AS OF SEPTEMBER 4, 2013

PARTY	COUNT
A Better Future	6
A Brookfield Party	4
A Sentinel Party	23
Canterbury First	2
Chatham Party	10

Democratic	740,163
Enfield Taxpayers Party	2
Friends Of Saybrook	13
Green	1,723
Guilty	1
Independence For Montville	8
Independent	14,458
Independent Choice	1
Libertarian	1,652
Milford Independent Party	3
New Milford First	19
Norwich for Change	1
Open	7
Pro-Bethel	2
Realistic Balance	4
Reform	13
Republican	415,106
South Windsor Citizens	1
Spring Glen Party	9
Swing	1
The Hampton Party	1
U-It	6
Unaffiliated	840,936
Unaffiliated (Conservative)	1
We The People	41
Winsted Independent	37
Working Families	250
	=====
TOTAL	2,014,504