



DENISE MERRILL
SECRETARY OF THE STATE
CONNECTICUT

For Immediate Release:
February 17, 2011

For more information:
James Spallone: (860) 509-6268

- PRESS RELEASE -

**SECRETARY MERRILL LAUNCHES
UNPRECEDENTED COORDINATION WITH STATE
ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION FOR
SPECIAL ELECTIONS FEBRUARY 22ND**

SECRETARY OF THE STATE'S OFFICE AND SEEC PROVIDE JOINT HOTLINE,
E-MAIL TO REPORT PROBLEMS OR CONCERNS ELECTION DAY

HARTFORD: Secretary of the State Denise Merrill announced today that her office is launching an unprecedented coordination effort with the State Elections Enforcement Commission (SEEC) to respond to potential problems at the polls for the upcoming legislative Special Elections. Voters in 18 Connecticut cities and towns will be going to the polls on Tuesday, February 22, 2011 to cast ballots for State Representative or State Senator to fill vacancies in nine districts. The Secretary of the State's office and the SEEC are once again opening the Election Day hotline ***1-866-SEEC-INFO (1-866-733-2463)*** to report problems at the polls. In addition, the two agencies have launched a new email alert contact – elections@ct.gov – for voters to use if they encounter any difficulties casting ballots on Election Day. Both the hotline and the email alert will be checked throughout the day by staff from both agencies.

“With these important Special Elections around the corner, we wanted to make sure voters had multiple ways of getting in touch with our offices should there be trouble of any kind on Election Day,” said Secretary Merrill, Connecticut’s chief elections officer. “Now, voters can not only call us but contact us through email either from home or by a mobile device should any problems arise. Through our combined efforts and resources, my office and the State Elections Enforcement Commission should be able to respond to any situation as quickly as possible. So I urge any voter next Tuesday – if anything doesn’t seem right when you go to cast a ballot, call us or email us, we are here to help.”

Voters who do use the hotline or email to describe problems can either state their name or report issues anonymously; but are asked to state the town and polling place where they are observing the problems, and provide as many specifics or details as they can. This

would greatly assist SEEC or Secretary of the State's staff to address the issue and find a solution as expeditiously as possible. In addition to the email and telephone hotline, the Secretary of the State's office and staff from the SEEC will hold three separate conference calls during the day on Tuesday to share information about potential problems or complaints at the polls, and coordinate the appropriate responses to those.

Polls will be open from 6:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. on February 22, 2011 in the following communities for the special elections:

- State Senate district 6, covering Berlin, New Britain, and part of Farmington
- State Senate district 13, covering Meriden, Middlefield, and parts of Cheshire and Middletown
- State Senate district 27, covering parts of Darien and Stamford
- General Assembly district 20, covering part of West Hartford
- General Assembly district 25, covering parts of new Britain
- General Assembly district 36, covering the towns of Chester, Deep River, Essex and Haddam
- General Assembly district 99, covering part of East Haven
- General Assembly district 101, covering the town of Madison and part of Guilford
- General Assembly district 126, covering part of Bridgeport

Voters can go to the Secretary of the State's website www.sots.ct.gov to see if they are registered to vote and where their polling place is located. They can also find out information about absentee ballots and a list of candidates for the special elections.