



**Susan Bysiewicz**  
Secretary of the State  
Connecticut

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- PRESS RELEASE -

## **BYSIEWICZ URGES CONNECTICUT VOTERS TO “AFFILIATE AND PARTICIPATE” IN AUGUST 10<sup>TH</sup> PRIMARIES**

SECRETARY OF THE STATE REMINDS UNAFFILIATED VOTERS THEY HAVE ONE  
MONTH TO ENROLL WITH A MAJOR PARTY IN ORDER TO VOTE IN THE  
PRIMARIES

**HARTFORD:** Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz today urged unaffiliated voters across the state to enroll with the Democrat or Republican Party by August 9<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m. so they can vote in the statewide primaries Tuesday August 10, 2010. Connecticut’s closed party system does not allow unaffiliated voters to cast ballots in the primaries, therefore unaffiliated voters must enroll as either Democrats or Republicans to cast a ballot in the primaries.

“I urge Connecticut’s 840,000 unaffiliated voters – the largest group of our state’s nearly two million active registered voters – to enroll with the Democratic or Republican parties so they can cast ballots and make sure their voices are heard in the primaries,” said Secretary Bysiewicz. “The 2010 election cycle is one of the most exciting we have seen in a long time in Connecticut, with many open seats and closely contested primaries on the Democratic and Republican side for Governor, U.S. Senator and many other important offices. Don’t let this chance to help choose leaders of our state and country pass you by. Affiliate by August 9<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m. so you can and participate in the primaries August 10<sup>th</sup>!”

At a news conference in Hartford, Secretary Bysiewicz was joined today by Connecticut Democratic Party Chairwoman Nancy DiNardo and Connecticut Republican Party Vice Chair Catherine Marx, Tony Esposito, President of the Registrars of Voters Association, and representatives from the Connecticut Town Clerks Association, the Connecticut

Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the African American Affairs Commission, and the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission.

To get the message out to voters, Secretary Bysiewicz has been engaged in a public awareness effort to get unaffiliated voters to enroll as Democrats or Republicans through Public Service Announcements on radio and television, and newspaper Op-Eds, meetings with Editorial Boards, radio and television interviews throughout the state.

To be eligible to cast a ballot in the August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010 Connecticut Primary Elections, an unaffiliated voter must enroll as a Democrat or Republican in person at his or her local Registrar of Voters office by Monday, August 9<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 PM. Mail-in registration forms must be postmarked no later than August 5<sup>th</sup>. New voters face those same deadlines if they wish to register with a party and vote in the primaries. Since June 1, 2010 more than 1,000 unaffiliated Connecticut voters have switched to the Republican or Democratic parties, making themselves eligible to vote in the August 10<sup>th</sup> primary. On Primary Day August 10, 2010 polls will be open from 6:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

For more information visit <http://www.sots.ct.gov>