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PRESS RELEASE

Montpelier, VT- Secretary of State Jim Condos is issuing a reminder to all Vermonters that just over a week away, Tuesday, August 28, 2012, is the date for the statewide primary.

“Primaries play an important role in the lead up to the general election. This is where major political parties nominate their candidates to run in the general election. In the August Statewide Primary voters are issued all three major party ballots—and it is in the privacy of the ballot booth that Vermonters can choose which party’s ballot they will vote upon,” stated Condos.

“Voting is at the very core of our democratic process. It is here that our leaders are chosen, that the voters voices are heard and my hope would be that all eligible citizens have registered to vote so they can do so in this important nomination process,” furthered Condos.

Recently, Vermont was named one of just five states in the nation as “best prepared to catch voting system problems and to protect voters from disenfranchisement due to equipment failures”, according to a study conducted by three watchdog groups, Verified Voting Foundation, Common Cause, and Rutgers Law School Constitutional Litigation Clinic. The criteria used includes the use of paper ballots, adequate back up systems for machine failure, no online voting for overseas and military voters, a post-election audit that can determine whether electronically reported outcomes are correct, and if the state uses a robust ballot reconciliation and tabulation process.

Condos said, “Obviously, we take the issue of fair and accurate elections seriously in Vermont, and as the state’s Chief Elections Officer, I am proud of our commitment to an open, inclusive voting process that works to allow every eligible voter the opportunity to cast that very important vote.”

As part of our commitment to transparency in elections, we are again offering election night reporting results that can be found at www.elections-vt.org.

Jim Condos is Vermont’s Secretary of State.