

## **I. In Focus This Week**

### **Secretary of state races shaping up across the country**

By [M. Mindy Moretti](#)

Twenty-six secretary of state seats are up for grabs this election year — twenty-three of which are election administration positions. Four seats are open due to term limits and several are open because sitting secretaries chose not to run again, largely to seek higher office.

**Alabama** — Incumbent Republican [Beth Chapman](#) will face Democratic challenger [Scott Gilliland](#) in the November general election. Chapman was first elected in 2006. Gilliland is a Birmingham-based attorney.

**Arizona** — Republican incumbent [Ken Bennett](#), who was appointed to the seat after former Secretary of State Jan Brewer was appointed governor, will face either former Real Estate Commissioner [Sam Wercinski](#) or State Representative [Christopher Deschne](#). The primary is scheduled for August 24.

**Arkansas** — With current Secretary of State Charlie Daniels term-limited, Republican State Senator [Mark Martin](#) will face Democrat [Pat O'Brien](#), former Pulaski County clerk.

**California** — Democratic incumbent [Debra Bowen](#) will face Republican challenger [Damon Dunn](#), a former wide receiver for the Arizona Cardinals. There are also candidates representing the Green, Libertarian, American Independent and Peace & Freedom parties.

**Colorado** — Incumbent Democrat [Bernie Buescher](#) was appointed to the seat in 2009 by Gov. Bill Ritter. Buescher will face Republican [Scott Gessler](#), an attorney specializing in election law.

**Connecticut** — Current Secretary of State Susan Bysiewicz is not seeking re-election. In the August 10 primary, three Democrats ([Gerry Garcia](#), Jonathan Harris and [Denise Merrill](#)) will go head-to-head. Currently there is one Republican ([Jerry Farrell, Jr.](#)) and one Green Party candidate ([Mike DeRosa](#)) in the race.

**Georgia** — When Karen Handel stepped down to run for governor, [Brian Kemp](#) was appointed secretary. Kemp will face Sandy Springs [Doug MacGinnite](#) in the Republican primary. On the Democratic side there are four candidates ([Gary Horlacher](#), [Michael Mills](#), [Gail Buckner](#) and [Angela Moore](#)). There is also one Libertarian candidate (David Chastain).

**Idaho** — Republican incumbent [Ben Ysursa](#) will face Democratic challenger [Mack Sermon](#).

**Indiana** — With current Secretary of State Todd Rokita term-limited, there will be four candidates facing off in November: Republican [Charlie White](#), Democrats [Vop Osili](#) and [Tom McKenna](#) and Libertarian [Mike Wherry](#).

**Iowa** — Incumbent Democrat [Michael Mauro](#) will face off against Council Bluffs City Councilman [Matt Schultz](#) (R) and Libertarian candidate Jake Porter.

**Kansas** — [Chris Briggs](#) who was appointed secretary of state in June 2009, will face State Senator [Chris Steineger](#) in the Democratic Primary and [J.R. Claeys](#), [Kris Kobach](#), and [Elizabeth Ensley](#) will face off in the Republican primary. The primary is scheduled for August 3.

**Massachusetts** — Democratic incumbent [William F. Galvin](#) will face Woburn City Clerk [William Campbell](#) (R).

**Michigan** — Current Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land is term-limited so in the August 3 primary six Republican candidates ([Cameron Brown](#), [Anne Norlander](#), [Judy Emmons](#), Paul Scott, Ruth Johnson and [Michelle McManus](#)) will compete to take on the only Democratic candidate, [Jocelyn Benson](#).

**Minnesota**—Incumbent candidate [Mark Ritchie](#) will face challenger [Dick Franson](#) in the August 3 primary. The winner of that contest will face off against Republican candidate [Dan Severson](#) in November.

**Nebraska** — Republican incumbent [John Gale](#) will face Democratic challenger [Janet Stewart](#), an attorney from Fremont.

**Nevada** — Democratic incumbent [Ross Miller](#) will meet two challengers in November: Republican [Rob Lauer](#) and Independent American party representative John Wagner.

**New Mexico** — Democratic incumbent [Mary Herrera](#) will face Republican State Senator Dianna Duran in November.

**North Dakota** — Long-time incumbent [Al Jaeger](#) will face off against Democratic State Representative [Corey Mock](#) in the general election.

**Ohio** — With current Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner choosing not to seek re-election, three candidates will face off in November: Franklin County Clerk of Courts [Maryellen O'Shaughnessy](#) (Democrat), State Senator [Jon A. Husted](#) (Republican) and former State Legislator [Charlie Earl](#) (Libertarian).

**Rhode Island** — In the September 14 primary, incumbent [Ralph Mollis](#) will face State Senator [Leonidas Raptakis](#)

**South Dakota** — In South Dakota, candidates for Secretary of State are nominated by their parties. In November, Democratic State Senator [Ben Nesselhuf](#) will take on [Teresa Bray](#), [Thomas Deadrick](#) or [Jason Gant](#). Current Secretary of State Chris Nelson chose not to seek re-election.

**Vermont** — When current Secretary of State Deb Markowitz chose to run for governor instead of seeking re-election, that left the field wide open. In the August 24 primary, on the Republican side attorney [Chris Roy](#) will face Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation [Jason Gibbs](#) and on the Democrat side, attorney [Charles Merriman](#) will face former State Senator [Jim Condos](#). Progressive Party candidate Peter Cooper will participate in the November election.

**Wyoming** — And in Wyoming, long-time incumbent [Max Maxfield](#) will face Democratic challenger [Andrew Simons](#) in November.

*(Information was gathered through a variety of state websites, campaign sites and media accounts. If you're an official candidate and your name is not listed here, please let us know.)*

## II. Election Reform News This Week

- This week, the [D.C. Board of Elections and Ethics launched a program that will allow military and overseas voters to securely cast their ballots online](#). According to *The Examiner*, Officials said an overseas voter using the new system would log on to a website run by the elections board. They would enter information that proves their identity like their voter identification number and address. Then, they would get a one-time use PIN would allow them to log in and obtain a ballot. Once submitted, the marked ballot would go into a kind of "electronic envelope" that would

identify the voter but conceal their choices. After the election, the electronic envelopes would be removed, separating the voter's information from their ballot, which would then be counted. Voters would get a confirmation their ballot had been submitted and be able to check back to see where it is in the process. In Washington, the project is being called "Digital Vote by Mail" and will be open source, which means that the public will be able to examine how the software works. That's important because it ensures transparency, officials said. District officials are working with the Open Source Digital Voting Foundation, a California group, to develop the process and ensure it is secure. The system is expected to be tested in July and to be used for the first time during the September primary.

- The state of [Georgia filed suit this week against the U.S. Justice Department](#), seeking to force the federal agency to approve the state's voter registration requirements. The Justice Department twice had turned down requests to give "pre-clearance," or approval, to the state's methods of verifying the identity and citizenship of newly registered voters, contending that it is inaccurate and frequently discriminatory against minorities. Georgia Secretary of State Brian Kemp and Gov. Sonny Perdue contend the department has the information it needs to grant pre-clearance, and that the citizenship requirement is modeled after an Arizona law the DOJ previously approved. Kemp argues the Justice Department under President Obama is hampering Georgia; the Bush Justice Department gave preclearance to Arizona when it submitted the same citizenship-verification procedures Georgia wants to use. "The state has filed this lawsuit for one reason: so we can comply with the Help America Vote Act by verifying that applicants are who they say they are and that they are U.S. citizens," Kemp said in a statement announcing the suit's filing.
- According to an audit released this week, the [Maryland State Board of Elections does not do a good job monitoring voter registration and overseeing local election boards](#), and the board has serious deficiencies in handling accounts receivable, cash, equipment and payroll, even failing to report a \$2 million budget shortfall. Some of the same problems were found in a 2006 audit, but elections officials still hadn't properly addressed them, the audit said. Bruce Myers, the legislature's chief auditor, called the findings "disappointing" since these were "long-standing issues." With the primary election in less than three months, Myers said the board has time to fix some of the issues "but not all." But Linda Lamone, administrator of the elections board, told the *Cumberland Times-News*, "There will be no problem whatsoever with the primaries. The auditor pointed out things to strengthen the oversight (of the local boards) and we have already done that." "Voter registration is a major focus of this office," Lamone said. "That's our biggest division and we are devoted to taking care of the major responsibilities of the local boards."
- [Riverside County, Calif. will delay certifying results of the June 8 primary to see](#) if possible legal action will resolve the fate of 12,500 mail-in votes declared invalid because they were delivered after the deadline to be counted. According to *the Press-Enterprise*, activists were laying the groundwork to claim in court that voters who mailed those ballots were denied the democratic process. No lawsuits have yet been filed. The votes moved between Inland area post offices and were not in the hands of the registrar of voters until one day after the election. State law requires that the ballots be in the registrar's possession by 8 p.m. the day of the election. After checking with the secretary of state office, county Executive Officer Bill Luna ordered the registrar's office to postpone certification until the legal status of the late ballots is resolved. Registrar Barbara Dunmore had told county supervisors via e-mail she expected to be able to certify the county's election today, after all votes, including 7,445 provisional ballots, were counted. The state certification deadline is July 6.

### III. Opinion

National: [Runoff elections](#)

Alabama: [Recount](#)

Arkansas: [Instant runoff voting](#)

California: [Election day](#); [Recounts](#); [Special election](#); [Riverside County](#)

Florida: [Lee County](#)  
Illinois: [Cost of elections](#)  
Kentucky: [Turnout](#)  
Michigan: [Secretary of state race](#)  
Missouri: [Reliable elections](#)  
Montana: [Vote-by-mail](#)  
New Jersey: [Voting machines](#)  
New York: [Voting machines](#)  
North Carolina: [Runoff elections, II](#)  
Ohio: [Polling places](#)  
South Carolina: [Voting machines, II](#)  
Texas: [Voter ID](#)  
Vermont: [Instant runoff voting](#)

*\*\*some sites require registration*

#### **IV. Job Opportunities**

*All job listings must be received by 12 p.m. Eastern on Wednesday for publication in our Thursday newsletter. Job listings are free but may be edited for length. Whenever possible, include Internet information. Please email job postings to [mmoretti@electionline.org](mailto:mmoretti@electionline.org)*

**Chief Operating Officer—Democracy Alliance, Washington, D.C.** Reporting to the Managing Director, the Chief Operating Officer will have wide-ranging internal and external responsibilities, including strategy, project management and relationship management, as well as administration, human capital and financial management. The Chief Operating Officer will be responsible for enhancing the internal organizational processes and infrastructure that will allow the Democracy Alliance to continue to grow and fulfill its mission. S/he will manage the following functions: operational management; board management; financial management and oversight; operations and human resources. **To Apply:** Applicants should email [staff@democracyalliance.org](mailto:staff@democracyalliance.org) and must include a cover letter, resume, and salary requirements. Email **MUST** reference “Chief Operating Officer” position in the subject line. No calls, please. We believe that employees from diverse backgrounds are critical to achieving our goals. We seek to recruit, develop, and retain the most talented people from a diverse candidate pool. We strongly encourage applications from persons with diverse backgrounds and experiences.