

# CONNECTICUT DEMOCRATS

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*State Chair*  
Nancy J. DiNardo

*State Vice Chair*  
Rep. Steve Fontana

*Secretary*  
Barbara C. Gordon

*Treasurer*  
Emma W. Pierce

Government Administration & Elections Committee  
Friday, March 30, 2007

Testimony of Nancy DiNardo,  
Chairwoman State Democratic Party

Good Morning Senator Slossberg, Representative Caruso and members of the  
E Committee:

For the record, my name is Nancy DiNardo and I am Chairwoman of the State  
Democratic Party. Thank you for allowing me to testify this morning on SB  
1184.

It is hard to believe I sit in front of you today, in the spring of 2007, offering  
testimony on potential primary dates for the November 2008 Presidential  
election, which seems so far away. However, I am here because I believe that  
we must do whatever it takes to have Connecticut play a more relevant role in  
choosing our Presidential candidates.

Secretary Bysiewicz has proposed changing the Presidential primary from early  
March to early February. While she doesn't support the frontloading of the  
primary calendar, she rightly stated on Tuesday that until a change is made,  
Connecticut needs to do what has to be done to prevent Connecticut voters from  
being disenfranchised.

Choosing a presidential candidate has become more about fundraising than  
developing quality ideas for leading this country. The candidate that raises the  
most money should not dictate the process and prevent the lesser known  
candidates from being heard. Dark horse candidates use the primary process to  
garner support and in the past have gone on to win elections; we cannot allow  
our Presidential candidate to be determined without our participation.

There are proposals being circulated by various groups, which would create a  
more balanced primary selection process, however until a decision has been  
reached, I support Secretary Bysiewicz's plan to move the Connecticut Primary  
date to the first Tuesday in February.



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Page 2

As you may know February 5<sup>th</sup> is the earliest feasible date for the primary, as the Democratic National Committee rules state that anything earlier would result in the forfeiture of 50% of our total delegates.

In conclusion, Connecticut will never beat the New York's or California's in appearances by candidates, but our votes should never be taken for granted. I believe that until the process is more equitable, Connecticut should ride the tide and hold our Presidential Primary on February 5<sup>th</sup>.