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Notes from editor (not for publication):

HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

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1 Secretary of State's office shares voting info, resources,
2 ahead of Aug. 11 primaries

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4 TEXT BODY:

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5 In advance of the statewide primary election Tuesday,
6 Aug. 11, Vermont Secretary of State Sarah Copeland Hanzas is
7 reminding voters about their voting options and resources
8 available from her office.

9 The primary election determines which major party
10 candidates will be on the ballot for the November general
11 election. "Every election is a valuable opportunity to make your

12 voice heard,” she said in a news release. “Yet, we tend to see
13 lower turnout in primary elections. It’s crucial that Vermonters
14 know how important their vote is, and how many options they
15 have for casting their ballot.”

16 Unlike the general election in November, ballots for the
17 statewide primary election are not mailed automatically. To
18 receive a mailed ballot, voters need to request one from their
19 clerk’s office or in the online Vermont Voter Portal.

20 Voters also need to choose which major party primary—
21 Republican, Democratic, or Progressive—they wish to vote in.
22 Absentee ballots are available now. Voters can mail their
23 absentee ballot back to their town clerk; the Secretary of State’s
24 office recommends doing so by July 28 to ensure the ballot
25 returns to the clerk by Election Day.

26 Voters can also hand-deliver their ballot to their town
27 clerk during open hours or put it in an official ballot drop box.
28 Another option is to go to the clerk’s office during open hours
29 and vote early in-person.

30 Copeland Hanzas emphasized the usefulness of her
31 office’s online Vermont Voter Portal, vote.vermont.gov. Every
32 registered voter has an existing account and can “log in” to view
33 information about their clerk’s office and polling place, request
34 an absentee ballot, and view their Voter Guide. The Voter Guide
35 also has information about the elected positions and statements
36 from the candidates on their ballot.

37 “Vermont works to remove barriers between eligible
38 voters and their right to vote, and I wanted to make information
39 about who is on your ballot just as accessible,” said Copeland
40 Hanzas. “Sometimes I hear that folks don’t participate in our
41 elections because they don’t feel informed enough about the
42 choices. I hope that this standard, nonpartisan guide gives
43 Vermonters a convenient opportunity to get the information they
44 need to cast their vote.”

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BIO/COATTAIL:

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