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Contact:

State Rep. Jason Bartlett
phone: 203-733-4266
email: jbartlett@garciaforct.com

**GERRY GARCIA ANNOUNCES FOR
CONNECTICUT SECRETARY OF THE STATE**

Video message: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rhnPaKPbFtQ>

Former member of New Haven's Board of Alderman and current financial advisor and businessman, Gerry Garcia became the first Democrat to file as a candidate to run for Connecticut Secretary of the State. Gerry, 38, is a product of the New Haven Public Schools and is a graduate of Yale College. After working at a non-profit organization and in the private sector, Gerry recognized that Connecticut needs a new voice to speak on behalf of Connecticut voters and small businesses. Gerry intends to bring a fresh vision and new ideas to the Secretary of the States office: He intends to make the democratic process more open and accessible to all Connecticut residents and to offer a friendlier, smarter approach to attracting and retaining small businesses.



Upon filing the documents, Garcia pledged to build off of the work of the current Secretary of the State and pay specific attention to those residents who may have difficulty getting out to vote on Election Day. Garcia commented that, "Its shocking that, in the 21st century, there is one thing that urban single moms, Fairfield County commuters and seniors across the state share in common: obstacles to voting on Election Day." Garcia continued, "We need Early Voting and to leverage technology to bring the Connecticut electoral process into the 21st century."

Garcia is participating in the Citizens Election Program and named Ronald Petronella as Campaign Treasurer. Petronella is the Executive Vice President of UFCW Local 371. Petronella stated, "Gerry is a fresh voice for Connecticut. He understands working people and the economic struggles we all face. His father was one of our union stewards and Gerry was a scholarship recipient from our union. We believe Gerry will make an outstanding Secretary of the State and he has my full support."

Matthew Nemerson, former President of New Haven Chamber of Commerce and CEO of the Connecticut Technology Council lent his endorsement reflecting the business community's interests by saying, ""We talk a lot about attracting and convincing bright young people to stay in Connecticut and we all hope to engage energetic entrepreneurs to help grow our economy.

Well, Gerry Garcia is all of these things and its time we gave someone like him a chance to help run the state for a change."

Nemerson continued, "Connecticut cannot plan for the future if talented and energetic younger leaders like Gerry Garcia are not given a chance to exercise some power. We are stronger as a state when there is room at the table for the next generation."

Garcia intends to make a formal announcement in the near future and has released a video message to Connecticut's voters. Please visit www.GarciaforCT.com for more information about the candidate. A full biography is available at [http://www.garciaforct.com/documents/Garcia candidate biography.doc](http://www.garciaforct.com/documents/Garcia_candidate_biography.doc)

A high resolution photo is at <http://www.garciaforct.com/documents/Gerry%20Garcia%20300dpi.jpg>