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For Immediate Release:  
September 23, 2009

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- NEWS RELEASE -

## **BYSIEWICZ DRAWS PRECINCTS TO HAVE MUNICIPAL PRIMARY RESULTS AUDITED**

16 OF 157 VOTING PRECINCTS WILL HAVE BALLOTS HAND COUNTED AND MATCHED  
AGAINST MACHINE TOTALS TO ENSURE INTEGRITY OF VOTING

**Hartford:** Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz joined voting rights advocates from across Connecticut at a news conference at the State Capitol on Wednesday September 23<sup>rd</sup> to randomly select the voting precincts which will have election results audited following the September 15<sup>th</sup> municipal primaries.

As required by Public Act 07-194, An Act Concerning the Integrity and Security of the Voting Process, ten percent of the polling precincts used in the election are subject to an audit. All told, 157 polling precincts were used on September 15<sup>th</sup> meaning that 16 precincts will have their election results audited. There were also 4 alternate precincts selected for the post-election audit.

“We had a very smooth Municipal Primary Election Day last Tuesday, but as I have said many times, we in Connecticut don’t just take the machines’ word for it -- we audit the results of every election,” said Secretary Bysiewicz. “No matter how small or large the election, as voters come to the polls and cast ballots in Connecticut they must have continued confidence that their votes were recorded accurately and that’s why the independent audits are so vital.”

The audits can begin no sooner than September 29, 2009 and must be completed by October 4, 2009. A complete list of precincts to be audited is attached.

“Auditing election results isn’t just a good idea, it’s absolutely essential in order to guarantee the integrity of our elections,” said Secretary Bysiewicz. “So we will have every ballot cast in a full 10% of all our precincts hand counted and matched against the machine totals. Connecticut has the toughest elections audit law in the country and I am confident at the end of this year’s audit the numbers will match.”

In total, audits will be conducted in 16 precincts. The law requires a hand audit 10% of all polling places in all elections and primaries. (Polling precincts which are already part of a recount are exempt from audits by statute). The provisions in the law, developed in close cooperation with the computer science department at the University of Connecticut, give Connecticut one of the strictest audit statutes in the country. Connecticut is the first state in New England to require a comprehensive audit of election results.

Public Act 07-194 states that local Registrars of Voters, "... shall conduct a manual audit of the votes recorded in not less than ten per cent of the voting districts in the state, district or municipality, whichever is applicable. Such manual audit shall be noticed in advance and be open to public observation." The results of audits will be analyzed by the University of Connecticut and then presented to the Secretary of the State's Office and the State Elections Enforcement Commission, and ultimately made available to the public.

The law contains a detailed description of the audit process:

"The manual audit... shall consist of the manual tabulation of the paper ballots cast and counted by each voting machine subject to such audit. Once complete, the vote totals established pursuant to the manual tabulation shall be compared to the results reported by the voting machine on the day of the election or primary. The results of the manual tabulation shall be reported on a form prescribed by the Secretary of the State which shall include the total number of ballots counted, the total votes received by each candidate in question, the total votes received by each candidate in question on ballots that were properly completed by each voter and the total votes received by each candidate in question on ballots that were not properly completed by each voter. Such report shall be filed with the Secretary of the State who shall immediately forward such report to The University of Connecticut for analysis. The University of Connecticut shall file a written report with the Secretary of the State regarding such analysis that describes any discrepancies identified. After receipt of such report, the Secretary of the State shall file such report with the State Elections Enforcement Commission."

<b>2009 Municipal Primary Audit Precincts</b>	
<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Polling Place</b>
Bethel	Municipal Center 1
Greenwich	Riverside School District 5
Greenwich	Bendheim Western Greenwich Civic Center District 10
Greenwich	New Lebanon School District 4
Hamden	Keefe Community Center District 3
Meriden	Nathan Hale School Area 2
Meriden	Casimer Pulaski School Area 4
New Britain	Vance School District 1
New Haven	Mauro-Sheridan School Ward 26
Stamford	Stillmeadow School
Stratford	Franklin School - Republican
Westport	Long Lots Elementary School Gym District 6

Westport	Long Lots Elementary School Gym District 7
Waterbury	Willow Plaza Center
Waterbury	Washington Park Community House
Waterbury	Kennedy High School
<b>Alternate Precincts</b>	
<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Precinct</b>
Bethel	Bethel Municipal Center 4
Greenwich	Bendheim Western Greenwich Civic Center District 9
Meriden	Thomas Hooker School Area 3
Sprague	Baltic Fire House