

From the Office of Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz

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For Immediate Release

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DEMOCRACY CUP WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Towns post top Election Day voter turnout in state

Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz announced that **West Hartford, Glastonbury and Middlebury** have won the 2002 Democracy Cup Challenge by posting the best turnout of voters on Election Day among Connecticut's towns. Co-sponsored by the East Haddam Civic Association (EHCA), the Democracy Cup Challenge was established three years ago as a way to encourage and recognize voter participation.

"With voter turnout in Connecticut annually one of the best among all states, our Democracy Cup winners stand as a national example," Bysiewicz said. "Voting is the foundation of our democracy and everyone who went to the polls on Election Day is helping to preserve the freedoms we enjoy in this country."

This year's state elections were held on November 5, and West Hartford's 66.71% voter turnout was best among large towns. Glastonbury's 72.85% led all mid-size municipalities with Middlebury winning the small town and overall category at 74.43%. Statewide turnout averaged 56.5% for the 2002 elections.

"It is remarkable how the winning towns are able to turn out so many voters," said EHCA President Scot Mackinnon. "We have learned that the winning towns generally have an aggressive network of volunteers who make sure that citizens of all ages are aware of the privilege and responsibility that goes with the right to vote."

Under the Democracy Cup Challenge criteria, towns with less than 15,000 registered voters are considered small, mid-size municipalities have between 15-35,000 voters and large towns over 35,000. **Stamford** (51.79%) was the 2002 large town runner-up with **Wethersfield** (66.28%) placing second among mid-size towns and **Union** (73.77%) second best in the small town field. 2001 Democracy Cup winners were respectively **Waterbury, Trumbull and Washington**.

Each winning town will be able to host and display a Democracy Cup trophy through next year's November elections. Trophy presentation ceremonies are currently being scheduled for later this winter. A complete list of 2002 voter turnout for all Connecticut towns is available at <http://www.efilingcabinet.com/statementofvote>