
From the Office of Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz

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VOTER FRAUD CLAIMS BY REPUBLICAN PARTY UNFOUNDED
CT Secretary of the State Bysiewicz calls RNC data "highly flawed"

Connecticut Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz said that the Republican National Committee has failed to substantiate their allegations made earlier this month that 54 registered voters in Connecticut cast ballots in two states during the 2000 national election.

"Most of the people named by the RNC as voting twice never voted in Connecticut in 2000," Bysiewicz said. "The RNC data is highly flawed, and the timing of these unfounded allegations so close to Election Day and on the eve of Congress reaching an agreement on national election reform is very suspicious."

Of the RNC's 54 alleged Connecticut double voters, the investigation determined:

- 29 never voted in Connecticut, but did in another state;
- 18 voted in Connecticut, but not in the other named state (3 weren't even registered to vote in the other jurisdiction);
- 4 names had different dates of birth;
- 3 cases in which out of state voting information could not be obtained were turned over to the Elections Enforcement Commission, U.S. Attorney's Office and FBI.

Bysiewicz stated that voter fraud is a felony and that it was irresponsible, particularly for the Republican party, to make unsubstantiated claims of such a serious crime.

"I believe this is a deliberate attempt to distract election officials across the country from their responsibility to encourage voter participation and administer fair elections," Bysiewicz said. "The RNC's claims could actually discourage some voters from going to the polls, making voter turnout the ultimate victim."

"I will work with the Secretary of the State and the Elections Enforcement Commission to ensure that no voter is disenfranchised and that no voter illegally casts more than one ballot," said Attorney General Richard Blumenthal. "Any claim of electoral fraud or impropriety deserves immediate strict scrutiny and investigation, which we will continue to do."

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During her office's review of the RNC data, Bysiewicz also worked with local registrars of voters, town clerks and Senator Christopher Dodd, who authored the recently passed national election reform bill.

"In light of the 2000 Presidential election and the systemic electoral problems in Florida and elsewhere, I strongly support the efforts of both Senator Dodd and Secretary of the State Bysiewicz to bring about significant election reforms," Blumenthal said.

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