
From the Office of Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz

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CONTACT: Dan Tapper, 509-6259
324-9862 (Cell)

**SECRETARY BYSIEWICZ DEMONSTRATES NEW VOTING
TECHNOLOGY FOR WATERBURY-AREA OFFICIALS**

*Visits Waterbury to show how new optical scan machines work,
answer questions of area elections officials*

WATERBURY - Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz today demonstrated new optical scan voting technology for local election officials at the UConn-Waterbury campus, showing officials from Waterbury and surrounding towns the type of voting machines that will serve as replacements for all of Connecticut's lever voting machines by 2007.

Optical scan voting technology, in which a voter fills out a paper ballot and then scans it into a machine for verification, is the most common form of voting technology in America today, with more than half of the counties nationwide voting on optical scan machines. Optical scan technology also provides a paper trail for every vote cast, in compliance with state law and the federal Help America Vote Act.

Today's visit to Waterbury is the nineteenth of twenty scheduled regional visits throughout Connecticut to meet with local elections officials, demonstrate the new technology for them, and answer any questions they may have, Secretary Bysiewicz said. Twenty-five (25) cities and towns in Connecticut will begin using the optical scan machines this year, including the nearby community of Wolcott and Southington. The rest of the state, including Waterbury, will begin using them in 2007.

"As our office considered potential new technologies, the principles of security, accessibility and reliability guided our decision making. We chose optical scan technology because it provides a level of security needed to ensure the short-term and long-term integrity of our elections," Secretary Bysiewicz. "People will find optical scan paper ballots very familiar; they are very similar to filling out a standardized test or even a lottery ticket, and many who have seen and used these machines now are impressed with their security and simplicity."

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“Federal funds will cover the \$15.7 million cost of purchasing the new machines and providing the proper training for elections officials,” Secretary Bysiewicz added. “We will work closely with Registrars and Town Clerks to ensure that people receive the education and on-the-job training they need.”

As two of the twenty-five towns selected to begin using optical scan technology this November in place of lever machines, Wolcott and Southington will receive new optical scan machines and privacy booths. Federal funds will be used to purchase them.

Town	Registered Voters	Polling places	Machines	Privacy Booths
Wolcott	10,300	3	7	42
Southington	26,700	12	25	107

“These demonstrations are very helpful to the people of Wolcott and other towns,” Wolcott Mayor Thomas Dunn said. “The more information we can get, the better. We are very pleased to be one of the first towns to use the optical scan machines this year, and this public demonstration will help to educate people on how they work.”

“We are very excited to have been chosen to use the new scanning equipment in this November’s election. The technology is very simple and straightforward, and extremely voter-friendly,” Robert Sherman, Republican Registrar of Voters in Southington, said.

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