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*From the Office of Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz*

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## **AUDIT REPORT SHOWS OPTICAL SCAN MACHINES PERFORMED VERY WELL IN 2006 ELECTIONS**

*Few errors reported, none made by machines;  
report shows optical scan technology to be secure and reliable*

HARTFORD - Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz today released a report from her office and the University of Connecticut which shows that the optical scan voting machines used in several cities and towns on Election Day performed extremely well, and were proven to be a safe and secure form of voting technology.

The report was released following a randomly conducted series of audits in a number of cities and towns which used optical scan machines in place of lever machines this year. The audits were performed during the final week of November on optical scan machines used in seventeen polling precincts in nine cities and towns throughout the state. **(A COPY OF THIS REPORT IS INCLUDED WITH THIS PRESS RELEASE)**

The audits involved performing a manual recount of each voting machine used in these seventeen precincts to match the machine results with the separate hand-count. In the majority of the precincts, the counts matched up perfectly, and in those where the results did not match, there were only minor changes reported. In each instance, the change was due to a mismarked ballot, not to machine error, Secretary Bysiewicz said.

"I want to thank the University of Connecticut's Department of Computer Sciences for helping us to design this audit and write this report. We have very good news to report today, because it is now clear that the optical scan machines performed very well on Election Day and without any problems. Any changes in vote totals found in these audits were due to ballots being marked incorrectly by the voter, not to any problems with the optical scan machines. We are very pleased with these findings and look forward to introducing optical scan technology to the entire state for the November 2007 elections," Secretary Bysiewicz said.

"This success is the result of strong efforts made by our office and by Town Clerks and Registrars of Voters throughout the state to educate voters on how to use these new machines. We worked together to provide extensive training to poll workers

and elections officials, ran Public Service Announcements on radio and television, and equipped each polling precinct with a brief DVD, narrated in English and Spanish, demonstrating to voters how the optical scan machines are used," Secretary Bysiewicz said. "We also made sure that the ballots used closely resembled those found in lever machines. These efforts helped to make the new machines unintimidating to voters, and made them very comfortable to use. As a result, we saw few problems. We will continue these voter education efforts next year as well."

Attached you will find two pages of comments from various elections officials throughout Connecticut concerning the performance of optical scan machines. In addition, the following comment was made by Douglas Chapin, Director of Electionline.org, concerning Connecticut's introduction of optical scan voting technology this year.

*"A big lesson from the 2006 election is that preparation pays. A key factor in whether or not jurisdictions had success or not so much success was the degree of preparation they applied to the process.*

*"The State of Connecticut moved to optical scan voting technology from their old lever machines for the first time in twenty-five of their 169 towns on Election Day. Connecticut, as a result, was one of the ten states we identified as states to watch on Election Day in our Election Preview in October.*

*"And yet, that experience in Connecticut went off largely without a hitch in Connecticut, even though they had very competitive and close elections in several races. Connecticut fanatically – I might even say obsessively – prepared for this election. They designed their optical scan ballot to look like a lever ballot, so voters would be comfortable with it. They had portable DVDs playing instructions in English and Spanish in the polling places. They had large numbers of new, well-trained, and in many cases younger poll workers available to help their voters. As a result, at the end of the day, that change was not as scary to voters, and it went off without a hitch."*

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