
From the Office of Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz

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SECRETARY OF THE STATE BYSIEWICZ ANNOUNCES START OF NEW RFP PROCESS FOR VOTING TECHNOLOGY

Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz today announced the start of the Request For Proposal (RFP) process for new voting technology, and it said it should conclude by the end of March. The new RFP invites voting technology vendors whose machines comply the 2002 Help America Vote Act (HAVA) as well as state laws to apply, Secretary Bysiewicz said. The RFP is posted on the Department of Administrative Services website at http://www.das.state.ct.us/rfpdoc/006_0057.pdf

"We have acted quickly and deliberately to get this new RFP posted just one month after the last one was stopped, and I am pleased that so many different people and groups worked hard to help us get it done," Secretary Bysiewicz said. "I want to personally thank members of the Voting Technology Standards Board, the League of Women Voters, Michael Fischer, Richard Abbate of Cheshire and other members of the Registrars of Voters Association of Connecticut, Sandra Hutton-Russo of Middletown and other members of the Connecticut Town Clerk's Association, as well as members of my staff, the Attorney General's office, and the DAS staff."

"HAVA guarantees that 200,000 Connecticut voters with disabilities will be able to vote privately and independently, something they can't do right now," Secretary Bysiewicz said. "Choosing the proper vendor is essential to their rights as citizens."

The first RFP process, which began last year, was halted by Secretary Bysiewicz and Attorney General Blumenthal on January 4 after no vendors were found to have met both state and federal law - one vendor that had been chosen was found to have misrepresented itself to the state about its federal certification. In addition to complying with federal standards set by HAVA -allowing disabled voters to vote privately and independently and requiring a paper audit trail for all voting booths - vendors must also meet state law requiring a voter verified paper receipt for every ballot cast.

Secretary Bysiewicz said she believes qualified vendors will respond to the RFP, because some have likely gained federal certification over the past few months. This RFP should conclude by the end of March, at which time initial qualifying vendors will go through a further screening process before finalists are chosen.

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