
From the Office of Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz

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MORE LEGISLATIVE RACES CONTESTED THIS YEAR

*Secretary of the State announces lowest number of
uncontested General Assembly seats since 1998*

More legislative races have opponents this year than in any year since 1998, Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz announced today. Only 55 of the 187 races for State Senate or State House, or 29.4 percent, lack either a Democratic or Republican challenger this year; the lowest rate since 26.7 percent in 1998.

Additionally, only six of the 36 races for State Senate (16.7 percent) lack a major party opponent, the lowest number since 1996 when just five of 36 races (13.9 percent) went unchallenged, Secretary Bysiewicz said. That number marks a dramatic improvement from just two years ago, when 36.2 percent of State Senate races had no major party challenger. In State House elections, 49 of 151 districts have uncontested races (32.5 percent), a significant decrease from the 40.4 percent in 2004 and the lowest number since 28.5 percent were uncontested in 1998. **(See attached document for all races from 1998-2006)**

"This shows an increased interest by Connecticut's citizens in the overall electoral process," Secretary Bysiewicz said. "While many legislative districts, particularly in some urban areas, once again lack competition, I am encouraged by these numbers." These improved percentages build on progress that became evident at the local level last year, when the number of uncontested races among Mayors and First Selectmen throughout Connecticut fell for the third straight election cycle, she added.

"The best news here is that more candidates are coming forward to participate in our electoral process," Secretary Bysiewicz said. "This bodes very well for our elections come November, because contested races often drive voter turnout." Secretary Bysiewicz said her office will conduct a public awareness campaign this summer to

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remind voters that a primary election will be held on August 8, and will feature two critically important races for Governor and the United States Senate.

In addition to the two statewide primaries, there are five primaries scheduled as of right now for State House races; in the 41st, 53rd, 72nd, and 73rd House Districts on the Democratic side, and in the 89th House District on the Republican side, Secretary Bysiewicz said.

State Senate Races

YEAR	UNCONTESTED BY BOTH MAJOR PARTIES	PERCENTAGE
1998	7 of 36	19.5 %
2000	11 of 36	30.6 %
2002	8 of 36	22.2 %
2004	13 of 36	36.2 %
2006	6 of 36	16.7 %

State House Races

YEAR	UNCONTESTED BY A MAJOR PARTY	PERCENTAGE
1998	43 of 151	28.5 %
2000	60 of 151	40.4 %
2002	50 of 151	33.1 %
2004	60 of 151	40.4 %
2006	49 of 151	32.5 %