

---

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

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Thursday, August 10, 2006**

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

## **SECRETARY BYSIEWICZ THANKS VOTERS FOR RECORD TURNOUT AT POLLS**

*32,000 new voters, 43 percent turnout a "victory for democracy"*

Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz today thanked the more than 280,000 Connecticut citizens who voted in Tuesday's primary, whose efforts led to the highest voter turnout in state primary history and "a resounding victory for our Democracy."

"We had the highest voter participation rate of any statewide primary in Connecticut history on Tuesday, with a forty-three percent turnout at the polls. I thank every one of our voters for that," Secretary Bysiewicz said. "As I have said before, voting is our most precious civil right. Our democracy begins with people exercising their constitutional right to choose the candidates who best represent their viewpoints and beliefs. This was also a way of honoring the 300,000 military veterans who live in Connecticut, as well as those brave men and women who are fighting right now in the War on Terror to protect new democracies in Iraq and Afghanistan."

"From May 1 through August 7, more than 32,000 new voters registered to vote, including more than 18,000 Democrats and Republicans; one of the largest spikes in voter registration in our state," Secretary Bysiewicz said. Additionally, more than 15,000 unaffiliated voters switched their registration to either Democratic or Republican in order to vote in the August 8<sup>th</sup> primary, which Secretary Bysiewicz also said is a record.

"Any doubts about the August date of the primary went away as soon as the polls opened," Secretary Bysiewicz said. "Turnout reached as high as 80 percent or more in some towns, and many of our cities that have often struggled to get people to the polls showed impressive participation rates. New Haven, Bridgeport, Stamford, and Waterbury all saw much higher numbers than in past statewide primaries."

#####