
From the Office of Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz

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

**SECRETARY OF THE STATE BYSIEWICZ CONGRATULATES
WEST HARTFORD FOR HIGHEST VOTER TURNOUT**

Nearly 59 percent turnout for last week's primary

WEST HARTFORD – Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz today congratulated the town of West Hartford for having the best voter turnout in the August 8th Democratic primary among the large towns in Connecticut. Nearly fifty-nine percent of all registered Democrats participated in the primary, at which a record forty-three percent of all Democrats statewide took part.

"I want to congratulate the citizens of West Hartford for once again having more people vote in an election than in any other large town or city. West Hartford has a history of excellent voter participation, and in fact has won our office's 'Democracy Challenge Cup' for election day turnout four times in six years. They do a wonderful job every year of getting out to vote," Secretary Bysiewicz said. "Voting is the most precious civil right that we possess, and it is our responsibility as Americans to cast our ballot for those candidates that best represent our beliefs and views.

"Voting is also a wonderful way to say 'thank you' to the more than 300,000 military veterans living in Connecticut, as well as the hundreds of Connecticut troops fighting right now in the War on Terror to protect new democracies in Iraq and Afghanistan," Secretary Bysiewicz added.

Voter participation last week reached levels never before seen in statewide primaries, with more than forty-three percent of all registered Democrats – 287,000 people in all – voting in the primary. Secretary Bysiewicz said this shattered the previous record of 38.8 percent set in a 1970 three-way Democratic primary for U.S. Senate.

"The residents of West Hartford deserve to be proud of themselves once again," Secretary Bysiewicz said.

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