
From the Office of Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, August 14 , 2006

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**SECRETARY OF THE STATE BYSIEWICZ CONGRATULATES
WESTPORT FOR HIGHEST VOTER TURNOUT**

More than 56 percent turnout for last week's primary

WESTPORT – Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz today congratulated the town of Westport for having the best voter turnout in the August 8th Democratic primary among the medium-sized towns in Connecticut. More than fifty-six percent of all registered Democrats participated in the primary in Westport on August 8th, when a record forty-three percent of all Democrats statewide took part.

“The citizens of Westport deserve to be congratulated for having such a high rate of participation in last week’s primary. Westport has a fine history of high voter turnout, and in fact won our office’s first-ever “Democracy Challenge Cup” in 2000 for medium-sized towns,” 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. Of the 169 Connecticut municipalities, ninety-nine of them had a voter turnout of higher than forty percent, she added.

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