
From the Office of Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz

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SECRETARY BYSIEWICZ DEMONSTRATES NEW VOTING TECHNOLOGY FOR GREENWICH ELECTION OFFICIALS

*Shows how optical scan machines work,
answers questions of Town Clerks and Registrars*

GREENWICH – Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz today demonstrated new optical scan voting technology for elections officials at Greenwich Town Hall, showing Registrars and Town Clerks the type of voting machines that will serve as replacements for all of Connecticut's lever voting machines by 2007. Additionally, some towns will be able to use the optical scan machines for this November's elections, Secretary Bysiewicz said.

Secretary Bysiewicz was joined by officials from LHS Associates, the company chosen earlier this month by the state to provide optical scan voting machines for Connecticut cities and towns. Optical scan voting technology, in which a voter fills out a paper ballot and then scans it into a machine for verification, is the most common form of voting technology in America today, with more than half of the counties in America voting on optical scan machines. Optical scan technology also provides a paper trail for every vote case, in compliance with state law and the federal Help America Vote Act.

Today's visit to Greenwich is the second of eighteen scheduled regional visits throughout Connecticut to meet with local elections officials, demonstrate the new technology for them, and answer any questions they may have, Secretary Bysiewicz said.

"As our office considered potential new technologies, the principles of security, accessibility and reliability guided our decision making. We chose LHS Associates' optical scan technical because this company provides a level of security needed to ensure the short-term and long-term integrity of our elections," Secretary Bysiewicz. "Much like filling out a standardized test or even a lottery ticket, the practice of filling out an optical scan ballot is something with which most people are familiar. The machines will ultimately replace our lever voting machines; this year, some towns throughout the

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state will be able to receive them for the November election, and LHS will replace all of our lever machines by the November 2007 election.

"Federal funds will cover the \$15.7 million cost of purchasing the new machines and providing the proper training for elections officials," Secretary Bysiewicz added. "We will work closely with Registrars and Town Clerks to ensure that people receive the education and on-the-job training they need."

Secretary Bysiewicz also discussed the state's decision to sign a one-year contract with IVS, LLC, a company that will provide Connecticut telephone-based voting equipment which for the first time in seventy years will allow those citizens with disabilities to vote privately and independently. The state will use federal funds to provide the IVS technology, telephones, fax machines, and secure telephone lines at all 769 of Connecticut's voting precincts for this November's election.

State Representative Livvy Floren (R-Greenwich), ranking member of the Legislature's Government Administration and Elections Committee, said, "As Ranking Member of the Government Administration and Elections Committee, voting issues are on my daily agenda. I would like to commend the Voting Technology Standards Board and the Secretary of the State for their hard work in keeping us ahead of the compliance curve. The optical scan technology chosen not only meets the federal Help America Vote Act requirements, but also the needs and concerns of all the people of Connecticut."

Margaret Reeves, Democratic Registrar of Voters in Wilton, said it is important for local officials to have a chance to familiarize themselves with the new technology prior to Election Day. "It's good that we are able to use the machines and see what they are all about before voters come to use them. It is very helpful for the Secretary of the State to have these regional meetings."

"We appreciate the presentation and have been looking forward to it. We'll be better informed because of it, and as result we'll be able to better inform the voters about these new machines on Election Day," Greenwich Town Clerk Carmella Budkins said.

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