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

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## **SECRETARY BYSIEWICZ UNVEILS NEW VOTING TECHNOLOGY FOR CONNECTICUT**

*Partnership with UConn will ensure security  
of all new voting systems*

Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz announced today that her office has entered into a contract with LHS Associates of Massachusetts to provide optical scan technology to replace lever voting machines across the state.

“As our office considered possible new voting technologies, the principles of security, accessibility and reliability guided our decision-making. We heard from thousands of citizens, academics, and advocacy groups concerned about the pitfalls of touch-screen voting technology. Touch-screen technology, in its current state of development, is simply not ready for ‘prime time’ herein Connecticut.” Secretary Bysiewicz said.

State Representative Livvy R. Floren, Ranking Member of the Government Administration and Elections Committee, said, “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.”

“Optical scan is the best voting technology available for the replacement of Connecticut’s lever machines. It is cost-effective, more transparent than DRE machines, and produces a voter-verified paper record,” Michael Fischer, a computer science professor from Yale University and a member of TrueVote CT, wrote. “I commend the Secretary of the State for choosing this alternative.”

Additionally, Connecticut will meet the requirements of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) for the November election by entering into a 1-year contract with IVS, LLC to provide one voting machine accessible to those with disabilities in each polling place in the state. “For the first time in seventy years, Connecticut citizens with disabilities will be truly welcome at the polls, and they will have the opportunity to vote privately and independently. This is a tremendous step forward for our state,” Secretary Bysiewicz said.

The IVS machines allow voters with disabilities to use a telephone at the polling place to cast their votes. The 2002 HAVA law requires that voters with disabilities be able to vote privately and independently by November 2006, Secretary Bysiewicz said.

According to Chris Kuell, Second Vice President of the National Federation of the Blind of Connecticut, "The National Federation of the Blind has long fought for the right of all Americans to vote privately, independently and securely. We are pleased to be working with Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz's office to bring accessible voting to every polling place in Connecticut. To this end, NFB members in Connecticut are looking forward to casting their votes using the IVS Vote by Phone system in this November's elections."

Finally, Secretary Bysiewicz announced that her office has entered into a formal partnership with the University of Connecticut's Department of Computer Science and Engineering, in which UConn will assist in certification and acceptance testing of the new voting technology.

"Of all of the concerns raised by citizens, academics and advocates, security was No. 1. UCONN has played an integral role in our decision-making up to this point. They have reviewed vendor proposals, tested equipment and made recommendations for maintaining the highest level of security in our election process. We look forward to drawing upon their tremendous expertise as we move forward," Secretary Bysiewicz said.

Both the LHS and IVS machines will be purchased with federal HAVA funds. The LHS machines will cost \$15.7 million, and the IVS machines will cost approximately \$1 million.

Materials on each of these companies are available in the accompanying press packet. Additional information can be found on the companies' websites - <http://www.ivslc.com/> and <http://www.lhsassociates.com/>

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# **New Voting Technology For Connecticut**

## **Statements of Support**

“Secretary Bysiewicz deserves great credit for her leadership in ensuring that Connecticut remains a national leader in voting rights. Voting systems which meet Federal requirements must be in place nationwide in time for the November elections. While the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) is a good first step toward ensuring that every eligible American has an equal opportunity to cast a vote and have that vote counted, we know that challenges in ensuring secure, transparent elections that are fully accessible to all still remain. As states complete implementation of the HAVA requirements this year, I and my colleagues will be reviewing compliance by other states in the areas of voting system standards, including the disability and paper audit trails requirements, as well as other election reforms.”

- **U.S. Senator Christopher Dodd**  
**(D-Connecticut)**

“This is a proud day for the State of Connecticut. Today we officially announce we are in full compliance with the Help America Vote Act, on time and ready for the November elections. I have been a strong supporter of the Help America Vote Act since it was passed in 2002, and I thank Senators Dodd and Lieberman for their tireless efforts to get this bill passed. Secretary of the State Bysiewicz has successfully negotiated contracts with two companies that will allow those with disabilities to vote independently for the first time ever, and will also allow towns to replace their lever machines this year if they desire. Thanks to all of our efforts, Connecticut elections will now have a paper trail of every vote cast, and the 200,000 Connecticut citizens with disabilities who had previously not voted will no longer be disenfranchised. Connecticut has long been a national leader in clean, accessible, and reliable elections, and that great tradition continues today.”

- **U.S. Congressman John Larson**  
**(D-1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District)**

“Thank you for allowing me to take a part in this project. On March 15, 1967, I was declared blind with retinitis pigmentosa, an offshoot from the Laurence Moon Biedl Bardet Syndrome. I became a registered voter and have voted in almost every election that has been held since then, both in Winchester and Middletown. I have had to have assistance in the voting booth when I have voted due to my blindness. In 2003, I took part in a Pilot Project using an electronic voting device. It looked like a remote control with headphones. The person from this company showed me how to use the device the evening before the election. After I voted, without assistance, for the first time, I commented how great it was to vote by myself for the first time. As chairman of

Middletown's Mayoral Committee Concerning People with Disabilities, it is a great honor and pleasure to take part in learning how to use the new technological voting machine that is designed for the disabled.”

**- Marty Knight, Middletown**

“The National Federation of the Blind has long fought for the right of all Americans to vote privately, independently, and securely. We are pleased to be working with Secretary of the State Bysiewicz's office to bring accessible voting to every polling place in Connecticut. To this end, NFB members in Connecticut are looking forward to casting their votes using the IVS Vote by Phone system in this November's elections. We agree with the Secretary of the State's decision to utilize this vendor, rather than using HAVA funds to purchase subadequate voting technology. We also agree that security in any new voting technology is paramount, and partnering with the University of Connecticut's Department of Computer Science and Engineering should ensure rigorous certification standards are met.”

**- Chris Kuell, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
National Federation of the Blind of Connecticut**

“I am pleased that the selection process has concluded, and with the selection of these new optical scan voting machines, we will be ushering in a new era in voting technology in Connecticut.”

**- State Senator Donald DeFronzo (D-New Britain)  
Co-Chairman  
Government Administration and Elections Committee  
Connecticut General Assembly**

“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. Job well done!”

**- State Representative Livvy R. Floren (R-Greenwich)  
Ranking Member  
Government Administration and Elections Committee  
Connecticut General Assembly**

“Today's announcement brings Connecticut into full compliance with federal law and goes a long way toward protecting the integrity of our elections both this November and into the future. I thank Secretary Bysiewicz for her good work in negotiating these contracts and securing new and reliable voting technology for our state.”

**- State Representative Chris Caruso (D-Bridgeport)  
Co-Chairman  
Governor Administration and Elections Committee  
Connecticut General Assembly**

“Secretary Bysiewicz has taken a significant step in both affording a new convenience to voters in our state and to complying with federal law.”

**- State Senator Edward Meyer (D-Guilford)  
Vice Chair  
Government Administration and Elections Committee**

“Now that optical scan voting machines have been chosen as the type of voting machines to be used in the State of Connecticut, as President of the Connecticut Town Clerks Association, I can definitively state that while this machine may not have been the first choice for many clerks, there are many Clerks throughout the State that have used this voting technology not only for absentee ballot voting, but in their polling places as well, and they very happy with it. The Clerks across Connecticut will maintain a professional and positive attitude with respect to the change in our States voting technology, and carry out any duties and responsibilities required by law to the voters of our respective municipalities.”

**-Sandra Hutton Russo  
President, Connecticut Town Clerks Association**

“I appreciate both the Secretary of the State’s sincere efforts to include the perspective of voters with disabilities in this decision about new voting technology, and her ongoing commitment to improving the accessibility of the voting process. More is at stake than technical, legal compliance. Voting is a fundamental civil right. It is gratifying to know that many voters with visual and print disabilities will now be able to vote independently for the first time. Our Office looks forward to continuing to work with the Secretary of State’s Office in efforts to further improve the accessibility of the voting process.”

**-Jim McGaughey  
Executive Director  
Office of Protection and Advocacy  
for Persons with Disabilities**

“While I and many of the towns I represent are disappointed that federal law appears to require that we abandon lever voting machines, which have served us so well for so long, I am pleased that this resolution will not impose unwanted and unfunded mandates on local communities. I thank all who have contributed to bringing closure to an issue which has consumed a great deal of time and attention.”

**- State Senator Andrew Roraback (R-Goshen)**

“Americans with disabilities have the right to full participation in all aspects of the voting process. Full participation in American society must include full access to voting in all its aspects, on an equal and independent basis. Election Day is one day when every American is free and must be equal. Election Day is one day when every American is measured by their willing participation in American democracy. Individuals with disabilities must be able to participate fully and equally in American democracy.

“AAPD supports voting systems that are accessible, secure, accurate and recountable. The Connecticut legislature was irresponsibly late in passing election reform legislation, and its requirement for a Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail violates federal law because it is not accessible to people with disabilities.

“In the face of these very difficult circumstances, Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz has acted creatively by leasing a voting system for people with disabilities, rather than rushing a purchase with the one-time federal funds for accessible voting. She has put in place a temporary solution allowing Connecticut to learn from this fall’s elections and make a highly informed decision after this year.”

- **Jim Dickson**  
**Vice President of Government Affairs**  
**American Association of People with Disabilities**

“For 85 years, the League of Women Voters has promoted informed citizen participation in government. Nothing is more fundamental to our democracy than the right to vote. During the past four years, the League has worked closely with state and local elections officials, legislators, and other concerned organizations to ensure that the goals of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 become reality for Connecticut voters. This important federal law was enacted to ensure that eligible voters are able to cast their votes easily, with confidence that each vote will be counted accurately. The League of Women Voters of Connecticut is committed and ready to help in the transition to new voting systems by doing what we do best—providing reliable and accurate information to Connecticut voters in order to safeguard the right to vote.”

- **Statement from the League of Women Voters of Connecticut**

“Although most cities and towns would have preferred keeping our tried and true lever voting machines, if the Federal Help America Vote Act will no longer permit them, then based on the information presented to me, the optical scan machines plus the measures to make each polling place compliant for visually impaired voters appear to be the best alternatives from the following perspectives:

- Easiest to work with
- Most secure
- Least expensive (assuming the state will have federal funds to purchase all machines)

“I commend Secretary of the State Bysiewicz and her staff for working with the University of Connecticut’s computer science experts as well as others to develop these alternatives to comply with federal law, without placing an undue burden on our cities and towns.”

**- Herb Rosenthal, First Selectman of Newtown and President of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities**