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

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**SECRETARY OF THE STATE BYSIEWICZ ANNOUNCES  
25 CITIES AND TOWNS TO BEGIN USING  
OPTICAL SCAN VOTING MACHINES THIS YEAR**

*New technology will replace lever voting machines in November election*



HARTFORD – At a news conference today at the State Capitol, Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz announced that twenty-five (25) cities and towns will use new optical scan voting machines during this November’s election. The optical scan machines will replace lever machines in those municipalities, **and a complete list of those cities and towns is attached to this press release.**

The twenty-five cities and towns were chosen following a survey in which every municipality in Connecticut took part, where officials were asked if they would like to be considered for the new technology this year or wait until the 2007 elections. A total of fifty-one (51) cities and towns expressed an interest in beginning this year, and the twenty-five were chosen from there.

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"I want to thank the officials from every city and town in Connecticut today for taking part in our office's survey, particularly Registrars of Voters. Their quick response to this survey helped us to decide which municipalities would begin using optical scan technology this year and which would wait until 2007. For those twenty-five cities and towns chosen, we appreciate their willingness to come forward this year, and we look forward to working with them in preparation of the November 7<sup>th</sup> election," Secretary Bysiewicz said.

LHS Associates is the company chosen by the Office of the Secretary of the State in August to ultimately provide the state with 1,538 optical scan machines to replace all 3,300 lever voting machines in Connecticut by November 2007. They will provide these twenty-five towns with 253 optical scan machines and 1,167 privacy booths within in the next month, well in time for the November election, Secretary Bysiewicz said today.

"As our office considered potential new technologies, the principles of security, accessibility and reliability guided our decision-making. We chose optical scan

technology because it provides a level of security needed to ensure the short-term and long-term integrity of our elections," Secretary Bysiewicz said.

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. The state will use \$15.7 million in federal funds to purchase optical scan machines and privacy booths for every municipality by 2007, and to also cover the cost of all necessary training.

Secretary Bysiewicz and officials LHS Associates are currently in the midst of visiting twenty cities and towns where regional demonstrations of the optical scan machines are held. Seven towns have been visited so far, and a total of twenty will be visited by October 12<sup>th</sup>.

State Senator Gary D. LeBeau (D-East Hartford), who represents both East Hartford and South Windsor, said, "I'm ecstatic. South Windsor and East Hartford are going to get a head-start on the rest of the state in the use of this new technology. I have no doubt that the voters in these two communities will be comfortable with and successful with optical scan technology. We'll be pros by Election Day 2007."

Herb Rosenthal, First Selectman of Newtown, said, "We are very pleased that Newtown has been selected as one of the towns to use this new technology this year. Optical scan technology provides us with security and reliability needed to maintain the

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integrity of our elections. We look forward to having our voters use these machines this year, and we thank the Secretary of the State's office for the help it has provided."

Sandra Russo, Town Clerk of Middletown and President of the Connecticut Town Clerk's Association, said, "Middletown is very happy to have been chosen as one of the towns to introduce this new voting technology this year. Our residents are very excited to be taking part, and we will have a very successful election."

Jan Murtha, Republican Registrar of Voters in South Windsor, said, "I am happy we are finally there. I've wanted to use this machine since we first tried it in South Windsor in 1994, and I am happy we are finally using it."

Judi Beaudreau, Democratic Registrar of Voters in Vernon, added, "We are very excited in Vernon. I've been pushing for this machine since 1993, and I'm glad we're finally going to be using it."

Shirley Surgeon, Democratic Registrar of Voters in Hartford, said, "I am very pleased the voters of Hartford will now have a paper trail when they vote, and they will know their votes are going to be counted."

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<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Registered Voters</b>	<b>Polling Places</b>	<b>Machines</b>	<b>Privacy Booths</b>
Ashford	2,800	1	3	12
Bethlehem	2,700	1	3	11
Bolton	3,200	1	3	21
Durham	4,900	2	5	20
East Hartford	25,000	7	15	100
East Haven	15,000	7	15	60
East Lyme	11,200	3	7	45
Hartford (4 precincts)	46,000	4	9	32
Litchfield	6,100	4	9	25
Mansfield	10,000	3	7	40
Middletown	24,000	14	29	96
Monroe	12,500	4	9	50
Montville	9,300	6	13	38
Newington	18,500	8	17	74
Newtown	15,500	4	9	62
Old Lyme	5,800	1	3	24
Salisbury	2,900	1	3	12
Southington	26,700	12	25	107
South Windsor	15,500	5	11	62
Tolland	9,400	2	5	38
Vernon	16,000	6	13	64
Westbrook	4,200	2	5	17
Wethersfield	17,500	10	21	70
Wilton	11,200	3	7	45
Wolcott	10,300	3	7	42
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>328,000</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>1,167</b>