
From the Office of Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz

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**SECRETARY BYSIEWICZ DEMONSTRATES NEW VOTING
TECHNOLOGY FOR LITCHFIELD COUNTY OFFICIALS**

*Visits Sharon to shows how new optical scan machines work,
answer questions of area elections officials*

SHARON – Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz today demonstrated new optical scan voting technology for local election officials at the Sharon Town Hall, showing officials from Litchfield County the type of voting machines that will serve as replacements for all of Connecticut's lever voting machines by 2007.

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 nationwide 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 Sharon is the eighth of twenty 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 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. "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."

State Senator Andrew Roraback (R-Goshen), who represents Sharon and whom Secretary Bysiewicz has credited for his invaluable assistance in the process of finding new voting technology, said, "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."

Marie Wallace, Deputy Democratic Registrar of Voters in Litchfield, said, "Everybody is very enthusiastic about the new machines, and Litchfield is delighted to be chosen. We look forward to a very successful election this year."

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