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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 BYSIEWICZ DEMONSTRATES NEW VOTING  
TECHNOLOGY FOR NEW LONDON-AREA OFFICIALS**

*Visits New London to show how new optical scan machines work,  
answer questions of area elections officials*

**NEW LONDON** - Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz today demonstrated new optical scan voting technology for local election officials at New London City Hall, showing officials from New London and surrounding towns the type of voting machines that will serve as replacements for all of Connecticut's lever voting machines by 2007.

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 New London is the thirteenth 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. Twenty-five (25) cities and towns in Connecticut will begin using the optical scan machines this year, including the southeastern Connecticut towns of Montville, East Lyme, Old Lyme, and Westbrook. New London will begin using them in 2007.

"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."

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“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.”

As four of the twenty-five towns selected to begin using optical scan technology this November in place of lever machines, East Lyme, Old Lyme, Montville, and Westbrook will all receive new optical scan machines and privacy booths. Federal funds will be used to purchase them.

<b>Town</b>	<b>Registered Voters</b>	<b>Polling places</b>	<b>Machines</b>	<b>Privacy Booths</b>
East Lyme	11,200	3	7	45
Montville	9,300	6	13	38
Old Lyme	5,800	1	3	12
Westbrook	4,200	2	5	17

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