
From the Office of Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz

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**SECRETARY BYSIEWICZ DEMONSTRATES NEW VOTING
TECHNOLOGY FOR WINDHAM-AREA OFFICIALS**

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

WINDHAM - Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz today demonstrated new optical scan voting technology for local election officials at Windham City Hall, showing officials from Windham 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 cast, in compliance with state law and the federal Help America Vote Act.

Today's visit to Windham is the fifteenth 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 Mansfield and Ashford. Windham 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.”

Mansfield and Ashford were selected as two of the twenty-five towns to begin using optical scan technology this year. Both towns will receive optical scan machines and privacy booths, paid for with federal funds.

Town	Registered Voters	Polling Places	Optical Scan Machines	Privacy Booths
Ashford	2,800	1	3	12
Mansfield	10,000	3	7	40

State Representative Walter Pawelkiewicz (D-Windham/Willimantic) said, “Our goal is an accurate and accessible voting booth. Voters must be confident that their vote is accurately recorded for our democracy to thrive. Secretary of the State Bysiewicz is working very hard to address concerns as we transition to this new technology.”

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