

Secretary of the State

SUSAN BYSIEWICZ



NEWS FROM SECRETARY OF THE STATE BYSIEWICZ

GIRLS STATE WELCOMES THE SECRETARY OF THE STATE

Every year, nearly 200 high school juniors are selected to participate in the Laurel Girls State leadership and citizenship program. Girls State Alumna, Secretary of the State Bysiewicz addressed this year's class on June 20th. Susan gave a power point presentation titled "Women in Politics" and spoke on the status of women in government.

Currently, 77 women hold statewide elective executive offices across the country. In Connecticut, women hold four out of the six constitutional offices. More than 28% or 53 members of the General Assembly are women, placing Connecticut's General Assembly 15th nationally, ahead of the national average.

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Title Slide from Secretary Bysiewicz's "Women in Politics" presentation.

Upcoming Voter Machine Demonstrations

June 26: Colebrook

June 27: Hebron

June 28: Milford

June 29: Southbury

For more information on voting demonstrations contact Lucian Pawlak at (860) 509-6200



VOTING RIGHTS FOR VOTERS WITH DISABILITIES EXTENDED

At the Secretary of the State's request, Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal has issued a formal opinion as to whether Connecticut's "Voter Bill of Rights" requires municipalities to provide a voting system accessible to the physically disabled in each polling place in non-federal elections, including the 2007 elections.

Secretary Bysiewicz is pleased that Attorney General Blumenthal has concluded that Connecticut law grants voters with disabilities, "... the right to vote privately and independently, and requires all polling places to provide a voting system that provides such private and independent access by physically disabled voters."

Each polling place will be equipped with at least one vote-by-phone machine. More than 400 voters took advantage of the vote-by-phone technology in last year's elections.

SECRETARY BYSIEWICZ & ATTORNEY GENERAL BLUMENTHAL CRACKDOWN ON OUT OF STATE COMPANIES ILLEGALLY OPERATING IN CONNECTICUT



Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz and Attorney General Richard Blumenthal held a news conference on Monday June 25th in the Secretary of the State's Office to announce the result of a year-long crackdown on out-of-state companies doing business illegally in Connecticut. Bysiewicz and Blumenthal were joined by the President of the Connecticut Better Business Bureau, as well as a small business owner from Fairfield County.

The joint effort between the Secretary of the State and the Attorney General recovered \$1.7 million in fiscal year 2006/07 from 600 out-of-state companies that failed to register with the state before doing business in Connecticut.

Secretary Bysiewicz and Attorney General Blumenthal launched their enforcement efforts last year, aggressively pursuing hundreds of delinquent out-of-state businesses and threatening legal action. To the businesses' credit, no legal action has been required and cases have been closed for all but 25 of the 600 companies under investigation. Fines and penalties collected from each business range from \$165 to more than \$20,000. The collections total for FY 2006/07 is more than the total for the previous 6 fiscal years combined.

"Connecticut companies are put at a competitive disadvantage if their out-of-state competitors don't adhere to the same standards of business. In addition, consumers have a right to know that the businesses they deal with are in good standing and that they have accurate information available should legal action ever be necessary. I will continue to work with the Attorney General to make sure Connecticut's companies and consumers are protected."

NEWSLETTER GETS A MAKEOVER !!

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Questions or comments? E-mail us at Susan.Bysiewicz@po.state.ct.us or call (860) 509-6200.