

**Secretary of the State**

**SUSAN BYSIEWICZ**



**NEWS FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE STATE**

**THE NEXT BALLOT YOU CAST WILL BE AN OPTICAL SCAN BALLOT!**

On Monday July 30th, I was joined by Attorney General Richard Blumenthal, elections officials and voters rights advocates, at a news conference to announce the use of lever voting machines is banned effective September 11, 2007 and for all elections, primaries and referenda occurring on or after that date.

In the last 9 months we have delivered over \$16 million worth of voting machinery to every city and town in Connecticut. Connecticut's residents deserve the right to know that their vote is safe, secure and above all counted.

At the news conference, Attorney General Richard Blumenthal said, "The Secretary of the State has broad discretion to disapprove and decertify any unsuitable voting system - and has decided sensibly and reasonably to require optical scan voting machines, which provide a reliable paper trail. This decision applies federal and state law to guarantee reliability, security and equal access for physically disabled citizens."

George Cody, President of the Registrars of Voters Association of Connecticut, referred to the transition of new voting technology as, "A celebration of Connecticut's full utilization of optical scan voting technology. The Registrars of Voters Association of Connecticut, representing election administrators in each of our 169 towns, welcomes this statewide implementation. With all of these preparations, we can all be assured of a seamless transition for our primaries and the fall election."

**Issue 8, August 1, 2007**



**It's official, the next ballot you cast will be on an optical scan machine.**

**What you'll find at the polls**

- 8,736 privacy booths.
- 1,586 ballot boxes.
- 18,000 marking pens.
- Almost 9,000 magnifying squares.
- Over 3,000 election officials ready to help you cast a safe and secure ballot.

**TRAINING FOR ELECTIONS OFFICIALS BEGINS**

On July 31st we launched an aggressive effort to educate and train registrars and election official so that Election Day will run smoothly. The full day training program will cover the topics of: components of the new machines, performance of the voting machines, proper set-up, pre-election machine testing, closing of election procedures and chain of custody of elections equipment and data.

Elections officials from: Brooklyn, Darien, East Haddam, Essex, Fairfield, Farmington, Greenwich, Hartford, Killingly, Killingworth, Scotland, Thompson, Torrington, Trumbull, Waterbury, and Watertown will take part in the inaugural training sessions.

The regional training sessions will be held in: Waterbury, Torrington, Trumbull, Windsor, Essex, Farmington, and Woodstock. To date nearly 2,500 elections officials have signed up for a training session.

I want to thank our state's election officials for taking part and especially the host towns for donating their time and space for this important task.

Sincerely,

**SOTS Trivia Corner**

**Which Connecticut city/town was the first to adopt optical scan voting technology?**

*Check back next week for the answer.*

*Previous Issues Answer:  
1958—The year Gov. Ella Grasso was first elected Sec. of the State.*

Questions or Comments? Contact us at: [Susan.Bysiewicz@po.state.ct.us](mailto:Susan.Bysiewicz@po.state.ct.us) or call (860) 509-6200.  
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