
From the Office of Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz

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SECRETARY BYSIEWICZ HOSTS VOTING MACHINE DEMONSTRATION IN ENFIELD

Demonstrates new optical scan technology to area election officials

ENFIELD— Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz today demonstrated new optical scan voting technology for elections officials at Enfield Town Hall, showing election officials from Enfield and surrounding towns the type of voting machines that will serve as replacements for all of Connecticut's lever voting machines by 2007. Additionally, some towns will be able to use the optical scan machines for this November's elections, Secretary Bysiewicz said.

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 in America 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 Enfield is the fifth 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.

"The most important factors in choosing new voting machines are security, accessibility and reliability. We chose LHS Associates' optical scan technical because this company 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 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.

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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."

Secretary Bysiewicz also discussed the state's decision to sign a one-year contract with IVS, LLC, a company that will provide Connecticut telephone-based voting equipment which for the first time in seventy years will allow those citizens with disabilities to vote privately and independently. The state will use federal funds to provide the IVS technology, telephones, fax machines, and secure telephone lines at all 769 of Connecticut's voting precincts for this November's election.

"I would like to thank Secretary of the State Bysiewicz for taking the time to visit Enfield and demonstrate this exciting new technology. These visits across the state not only help voters become acclimated to the new machines, but they provide the Registrars and Town Clerks a better understanding of the technology," said State Senator John A. Kissel (R-Enfield).

"I want to thank Secretary of the State Bysiewicz for coming to Enfield to demonstrate the new optical scan voting technology and for her leadership in advancing this technology," State Representative Kathy Tallarita (D-Enfield) said. "Change is always difficult, but it is important for all of us to understand and be able to educate voters about this new technology."

Stafford Town Clerk Carol Davis said, "These visits to the towns to demonstrate how the new optical scan machines work are helpful to local election officials, and will be helpful to every voter come November. We thank Secretary Bysiewicz for taking the time to come to our part of the state and show us first hand how optical scan technology works."

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