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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 REPORTS STATUS OF MILITARY AND OVERSEAS ABSENTEE BALLOTS**

*Nearly all overseas votes in Senate, Congressional primaries now in*

Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz was pleased to announce today that nearly all military and overseas absentee ballots cast in the August 8<sup>th</sup> primary for U.S. Senate and U.S. Congress have been counted and officially entered into the state's record.

The Office of the Secretary of the State announced in early August that it would hold the official results of the August 8<sup>th</sup> federal primaries open until all absentee ballots cast by members of the military and those living overseas were counted. By law, any member of the military or overseas citizen who voted by absentee ballot through the use of a federal postcard application in the 2004 elections should have automatically received a ballot for the federal races in the 2006 primaries from their local Town Clerk's office.

This applied to votes cast in the two federal primaries on August 8<sup>th</sup> – a Democratic primary for U.S. Senate and a Republican primary for the First Congressional District. Ballots from nearly 100 towns were not sent out by the federal deadline, and as many as 870 citizens were potentially affected.

As of today, 147 of 169 cities and towns have reported that all of their overseas absentee ballots are now in, with the remaining twenty-two towns expected to report their results by September 8, 2006. A total of thirty-four (34) ballots have been received since August 8<sup>th</sup> with a breakdown as follows: Eighteen for Ned Lamont; fourteen for Joe Lieberman; and two for Scott MacLean. Of the twenty-two (22) towns yet to report, a total of 130 absentee ballots were sent out for the August 8<sup>th</sup> primary.

"I am very pleased that, from what we are seeing, most of our military members and overseas residents were able to have their votes counted in time for the August 8<sup>th</sup> primary. However, those whose ballots came to them late were given a full opportunity

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to cast their votes and those votes have now been counted," Secretary Bysiewicz said.

"Our brave men and women serving in the armed forces and our citizens abroad deserve to have their votes counted, and should not have been cut out from the process just because they received their ballots too late. It was my pleasure to work with the federal government and The Office of the Attorney General to ensure that these important ballots arrived home and were counted," Secretary Bysiewicz added.

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