
From the Office of Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz

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SECRETARY BYSIEWICZ DEMONSTRATES NEW VOTING TECHNOLOGY FOR NEW HAVEN-AREA OFFICIALS

*Shows how new optical scan machines work,
answers questions of area elections officials*

NEW HAVEN – Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz today demonstrated new optical scan voting technology for local election officials at New Haven City Hall, showing officials from New Haven and area towns the type of voting machines that will serve as replacements for all of Connecticut's lever voting machines by 2007. Additionally, some cities and 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 nationwide 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 New Haven is the sixth 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.

"As our office considered potential new technologies, the principles of security, accessibility and reliability guided our decision making. We chose LHS Associates' optical scan technology 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

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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. Today's demonstration was to give election officials from New Haven and surrounding towns a chance to see the new technology and ask questions or air their concerns.

"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.

Rae Tramontano, Republican Registrar of Voters in New Haven, said, "I am pleased that we are having these demonstrations throughout the state. This gives the administrators of the local elections a chance to preview the machines."

State Senator Ed Meyer (D-Guilford), vice-chair of the Government Administration and Elections Committee, said, "The right to vote in a democratic society is one of our nation's most precious gifts, and anything that can be done to increase voter participation – especially in light of the new voting technology we will all be using next year – is laudable. Secretary Bysiewicz is to be congratulated for the time and effort she is expending to ensure that Connecticut residents are well-versed in this new technology and are fully prepared to participate in upcoming elections."

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