
From the Office of Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, September 21, 2006

CONTACT: Dan Tapper, 509-6259
324-9862 (Cell)

SECRETARY BYSIEWICZ ANNOUNCES RANDOM AUDITS TO BE PERFORMED FOLLOWING ELECTIONS TO ENSURE RELIABILITY OF NEW VOTING MACHINES

Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz said today that her office and the University of Connecticut's Department of Computer Science and Engineering will perform random audits following the November 7th election in cities and towns using optical scan voting technology in place of lever machines. The audits will be done to examine how the machines worked and to ensure the reliability of Connecticut's voting technology.

Secretary Bysiewicz said her office will work with UConn Computer Science Professor Alexander Shvartsman, whose department this year formed a partnership with the Office of the Secretary of the State to assist in certification and acceptance testing of the new voting technology, as well as the citizens' group TrueVoteCT. These audits will be performed randomly in the twenty-five (25) Connecticut towns that will begin using the optical scan voting machines in place of lever machines this year.

"We are very grateful to TrueVoteCT and UConn for their guidance and expertise. These random audits will ensure that we are using funds wisely to purchase equipment that is reliable and accurate," Secretary Bysiewicz said. "These audits are also a means for assuring Connecticut voters that each of their votes will be counted properly and that we will continue our tradition in the state of fair, secure elections."

Dr. Shvartsman, who directs UConn's efforts in this partnership, said, "Random audits will play a critical role in allowing the state to ensure accurate and secure elections. We look forward to our work with the Secretary's staff and members of TrueVoteCT to develop procedures that provide necessary safeguards."

Michael Fischer of TrueVoteCT said, "One of the recommendations that we have made for the responsible use of computerized voting technology is that the correct operation of the equipment on Election Day be verified through suitably designed

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random audit procedures. We are delighted that Secretary Bysiewicz is taking the initiative in establishing audit procedures for the new optical scan equipment in the upcoming November election."

Christina Spiesel, a board member for TrueVoteCT, added, 'All over the country people are expressing grave concerns about new voting technologies. Connecticut can set the example for the nation about how to go about ensuring a secure election where everyone's vote is counted. I am very happy to see Secretary Bysiewicz exerting leadership in the proper use of these new technologies."

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