



Susan Bysiewicz
SECRETARY OF THE STATE
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- NEWS RELEASE -

SECRETARY OF THE STATE'S OFFICE HOLDS ITS 100TH VOTING MACHINE DEMO SINCE JUNE 2006

WITH 3 MONTHS LEFT UNTIL SEPTEMBER PRIMARIES, BYSIEWICZ LAUNCHES NEW
PHASE OF VOTER OUTREACH PROGRAM THAT FOCUSES ON PRIVACY

Hartford: Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz is announcing that today, at a senior center in West Haven, her office completed its 100th voting machine demonstration in Connecticut since June of 2006. Through the course of these demonstrations, Secretary Bysiewicz has helped introduce Connecticut's new voting technology to thousands of people at senior centers, schools, and town halls across the state. In total, the Secretary of the State's Office has held voting machine demonstrations in 58 different towns and cities in 52 weeks.

"This statewide tour has helped thousands of voters become comfortable with the new technology and confident that their votes will be recorded privately and accurately," said Bysiewicz. "With just three months to go until the September primary elections, and five months until the general elections in November, it's imperative that we ramp up our efforts even more."

The Secretary of the State's office will begin scheduling large-scale voting machine demonstrations at shopping centers, county fairs and festivals, and public gatherings across Connecticut. Each demonstration will feature a mock polling place to offer voters a glimpse of what to expect on Election Day and to help local Registrars of Voters, who are ultimately

responsible for running the local elections, see how to properly set up and manage each polling places.

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 cast, in compliance with state law and the federal Help America Vote Act.

Connecticut's conversion to new optical scan voting machines began in November 2006, when 25 towns successfully utilized the equipment for the Nov. 7th elections. In May of 2007, seven additional municipalities and eight boroughs held elections or referendums with the new optical scan voting machines. This fall, the remaining 137 Connecticut cities and towns will begin using the new technology.

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