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- NEWS RELEASE -

CONNECTICUT BECOMES ONLY STATE IN NEW ENGLAND TO AUDIT ELECTION RESULTS

GOVERNOR SIGNS BYSIEWICZ'S AUDIT BILL INTO LAW; WILL TAKE EFFECT THIS FALL

HARTFORD: Governor Rell has signed into law Public Act 07-194, An Act Concerning the Integrity and Security of the Voting Process, which requires Connecticut to conduct random audits of 10% of all polling districts in future statewide elections, beginning this fall with the September primary and November general elections.

The results of such audits will be analyzed by the University of Connecticut - under a new partnership with the Secretary of the State's Office that has been codified in this law - then presented to the Secretary of the State's Office and the State Elections Enforcement Commission, and ultimately made available to the public. Connecticut is the only state in New England and just the 13th in the nation to require audit verification of election results.

"As all of Connecticut makes the transition to new optical scan voting machines this year, it is imperative that voters have confidence that their vote will be recorded accurately," said Bysiewicz. "This law ensures that regular and thorough audits are conducted in an open, transparent process, and that voters can have the highest confidence that their vote is being counted."

According to Public Act 07-194, local Registrars of Voters, "... shall conduct a manual audit of the votes recorded in not less than ten per cent of the voting districts in the state, district or municipality, whichever is applicable. Such manual audit shall be noticed in advance and be open to public observation."

The new law also outlines how it will be determined what voting districts and offices are audited, "The voting districts subject to the audit... shall be selected in a random drawing by the Secretary of the State and such selection process shall be open to the public."

In any election that includes the office of president or governor, election results for at least three offices will be audited. In a municipal election, three offices or twenty per cent of the number of offices on the ballot, whichever is greater, will be selected at random by the municipal clerk. For a primary election, no less than twenty per cent of the offices on the ballot will be selected in a random drawing by the municipal clerk.

"I am proud to say, we have received strong support for this legislation from a wide range of organizations such as the University of Connecticut, the League of Women Voters of Connecticut, and our local election officials who are all committed to the election process being free from fraud," said Bysiewicz.

The legislation contains a detailed description of the audit process:

"The manual audit... shall consist of the manual tabulation of the paper ballots cast and counted by each voting machine subject to such audit. Once complete, the vote totals established pursuant to the manual tabulation shall be compared to the results reported by the voting machine on the day of the election or primary. The results of the manual tabulation shall be reported on a form prescribed by the Secretary of the State which shall include the total number of ballots counted, the total votes received by each candidate in question, the total votes received by each candidate in question on ballots that were properly completed by each voter and the total votes received by each candidate in question on ballots that were not properly completed by each voter. Such report shall be filed with the Secretary of the State who shall immediately forward such report to The University of Connecticut for analysis. The University of Connecticut shall file a written report with the Secretary of the State regarding such analysis that describes any discrepancies identified. After receipt of such report, the Secretary of the State shall file such report with the State Elections Enforcement Commission."

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