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For Immediate Release:
September 6, 2007

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- NEWS RELEASE -

**BYSIEWICZ & ATTORNEY GENERAL AGREE:
ELM CITY RESIDENT CARDS CANNOT BE USED TO ESTABLISH
ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE**

AS ELECTION APPROACHES, BYSIEWICZ URGES ELECTION OFFICIALS TO REMEMBER
ELIGIBILITY RULES

Hartford: At the Secretary of the State's request, Attorney General Richard Blumenthal has issued an opinion as to whether New Haven's Elm City Resident Cards can be used during the electoral process.

Secretary Bysiewicz is pleased that the Attorney General supports her earlier decision – expressed in communications to New Haven's Registrars of Voters in July – stating that the city's Resident Cards cannot be used to establish eligibility to register to vote or prove United States citizenship during any portion of the registration process.

“While the municipal Cards help residents establish eligibility for city services, they do not serve the same function when it comes to voter registration,” said Bysiewicz. “The law is clear, you must be a U.S. citizen to vote and you must be at least 18 years of age on or before the date of the next regular election. The Elm City Cards cannot be used to satisfy either of these criteria.”

According to the Attorney General's opinion issued to the Secretary of the State, "... it would be reasonable and not inconsistent with state law for you to conclude that individuals may not use an Elm City Resident Card to establish their eligibility to register to vote." The Attorney General's opinion also states, "Elm City Resident Cards are not included among the forms of documentation listed in Conn. Gen. Stat. 9-20 to establish citizenship."

While the Elm City Resident Card cannot be used to establish eligibility for registration, the Attorney General has concluded that it can be used to prove one's identity – just as a utility bill or bank statement - when checking in at the polling place, "... just as 'a copy of a current utility bill' or 'bank statement,' both of which are permissible forms of identification... may not be used to prove eligibility because they are not evidence of citizenship status or age, you should make clear that is your view that Elm City Resident Cards may be used solely to prove one's identity and not eligibility."

The Secretary of the State's office will continue working with the Registrars of Voters and election workers in New Haven to ensure that they're briefed on the Attorney General's opinion.

"The integrity and security of the election must be protected at all times," said Bysiewicz. "The Attorney General and I agree that, while these cards can serve a useful purpose in the City of New Haven, they cannot be used to establish eligibility to vote."

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