



Susan Bysiewicz  
SECRETARY OF THE STATE  
CONNECTICUT

For Immediate Release:  
November 28, 2007

For more information:  
Adam Joseph: (860) 509-6118  
Cell: (860) 817-4165

- NEWS RELEASE -

## SECRETARY BYSIEWICZ ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF 2007 DEMOCRACY CUP

EAST HAVEN, NORTH HAVEN, AND WEST HARTFORD TAKE HONORS FOR TOP  
VOTER TURNOUT

**Hartford:** Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz announced today that East Haven (64.1%), North Haven (57.9%), and West Hartford (38.2%) are the winners of the 2007 “Democracy Cup.” The award is given annually to the small, medium, and large-sized towns with the highest voter turnout on Election Day.

“I congratulate these three towns for doing the best job this year of getting voters out to the polls, said Bysiewicz. All three towns showed high voter turnout in a municipal year election. The involvement of citizens in the democratic process is the cornerstone of our civic life and this year the voters of East Haven, North Haven, and West Hartford proved they are leaders.”

Co-sponsored by the East Haddam Civic Association since 2000, the Democracy Cup was created as a way to encourage voter participation in each year’s elections. Under Democracy Cup criteria established by Secretary Bysiewicz, towns with fewer than 15,000 registered voters are considered small; municipalities with between 15,000 and

35,000 voters are considered mid-sized, and cities and towns with more than 35,000 registered voters are considered large.

“Whenever a community rises to the occasion of producing a strong voter turnout it is a reminder to all elected officials that incumbent or not they are subject to the voice of the people and that ultimately there is no more important office than that of voter,” said Scot Mackinnon, the co-founder of the Democracy Cup and East Haddam Civic Association member.

“It really is a testament to the people of East Haven that so many folks became engaged and concerned in the political process and took the time to cast their ballot and have their voice heard,” said East Haven Mayor April Capone Almon.

“The Voters of North Haven are truly the winners of this award,” said North Haven First Selectwoman-elect Janet McCarty. “I am proud of our voter turnout; proud that residents care enough to make the effort to come out and vote, and I am not surprised that the people of North Haven take their local government very seriously. They clearly wanted change and came out to vote in record numbers.”

West Hartford Mayor Scott Slifka said, “We are very proud of the residents of West Hartford for once again demonstrating their commitment to the civic process. We are a community of citizens that pays attention to the issues and gets out and votes.”

The Office of the Secretary of the State has implemented an aggressive voter registration program. As part of her effort to increase voter registration in Connecticut, Secretary Bysiewicz this past year registered more than 1,000 high school students. The office also registers new citizens to vote at naturalization ceremonies and other events across Connecticut.

Each winning town will be able to host and display a Democracy Cup trophy through next year’s November elections. Trophy presentation ceremonies are currently being scheduled for December.

**Democracy Cup Winners  
2000-2007**

	<b>SMALL</b>	<b>MEDIUM</b>	<b>LARGE</b>
2000	Essex	Westport	West Hartford
2001	Washington	Trumbull	Waterbury
2002	Middlebury	Glastonbury	West Hartford
2003	Washington	Naugatuck	West Hartford
2004	Washington	Wethersfield	Fairfield
2005	Middlebury	Shelton	West Hartford

2006	Union	Westport	West Hartford
2007	East Haven	North Haven	West Hartford