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- NEWS RELEASE -

**SECRETARY MERRILL AWARDS 2011 DEMOCRACY
CUP TO WATERBURY, MIDDLEBURY AND
TRUMBULL**

SECRETARY OF THE STATE AWARDS DEMOCRACY CUP TO CITY, MID-SIZE TOWN AND LARGE
TOWN WITH HIGHEST VOTER TURNOUT IN 2011

Hartford: Secretary of the State Denise Merrill today presented the 2011 “Democracy Cup” for the highest voter turnout percentages in the 2011 Municipal elections to the city of Waterbury (30.92%), and the towns of Trumbull (48%) and Middlebury (51.98%). The winner of the cup for the small town category is Hampton, with a voter turnout percentage of 63.75% and that town will receive its award on Thursday February 16th. The award is given annually to the small, mid-sized, large towns and city with the highest voter turnout on Election Day.

“We had some towns with some very strong voters turnout on Election Day in 2011, despite the difficult challenges presented in our state by the devastating October snowstorm,” said Secretary Merrill, Connecticut’s Chief Elections Official. “The voters in these communities really set an example for all of the voters in Connecticut of why local races matter and why it is important to get involved with your community and participate in democracy. I congratulate these three communities and the town of Hampton for doing the best job this year of getting voters out to the polls.”

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, towns with fewer than 5,000 registered voters are considered small; municipalities with between 5,000 and 14,999 and voters are considered mid-sized, towns with 15,000 and 49,999 registered voters are considered large towns. Cities with more than 50,000 registered voters are their own category.

“All Connecticut communities should be proud of their voter participation this year, but none more so than our big cities; especially Waterbury,” said Scot Mackinnon, co-founder of the Democracy Cup and East Haddam Civic Association member. “While rural Hampton’s 63.75% was the best turnout overall, Waterbury’s nearly 31% was very respectable for a large city. Typically, while smaller municipalities have an easier time getting voters to the polls, urban centers, like Stamford, New Haven and Hartford, are gaining ground. This is a trend worth celebrating.”

Overall, statewide voter turnout was 30.81% in the 2011 Municipal Elections, less than the normal statewide figure for a municipal election year, in what may have been a result of difficulties in transportation and communication due to power outages and downed tree limbs from the snowstorm.

Each community awarded the Democracy Cup will be able to host and display a trophy through next year’s November elections. The trophy presentation for the town of Hampton will be held on Thursday February 16th.

**Democracy Cup Winners
2000-2010**

YEAR	SMALL TOWN	MID-SIZE TOWN	LARGE TOWN	CITY
2011	Hampton	Middlebury	Trumbull	Waterbury
2010	Roxbury	Granby	Simsbury	Stamford
2009	Bridgewater	Orange	East Haven	Stamford
2008	New Hartford	Avon	Newtown	Stamford
2007	East Haven	North Haven	West Hartford	
2006	Union	Westport	West Hartford	
2005	Middlebury	Shelton	West Hartford	
2004	Washington	Wethersfield	Fairfield	
2003	Washington	Naugatuck	West Hartford	
2002	Middlebury	Glastonbury	West Hartford	
2001	Washington	Trumbull	Waterbury	
2000	Essex	Westport	West Hartford	