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- NEWS RELEASE -

SECRETARY MERRILL DRAWS 16 PRECINCTS TO HAVE SEPTEMBER 10TH MUNICIPAL PRIMARY RESULTS AUDITED

10% OF ALL VOTING PRECINCTS USING OPTICAL SCANNERS WILL HAVE BALLOTS
HAND COUNTED AND MATCHED AGAINST MACHINE TOTALS TO ENSURE INTEGRITY
OF VOTING

Hartford: Secretary of the State Denise Merrill today joined Connecticut Voting Rights advocates at a news conference at the State Capitol to randomly select the voting precincts which will have election results audited following the September 10, 2013 municipal primaries in 23 Connecticut cities and towns. As required by Connecticut General Statutes 9-320f, ten percent of the polling precincts in the election using optical scan voting machines are subject to an audit. All told, 156 polling precincts used optical scan voting machines on September 10th, meaning that some 16 precincts were chosen to have their election results audited, with five others chosen as alternates.



“Voters in nearly two dozen Connecticut communities had their say on September 10th about who they want on the general election ballot for important local offices,” said Secretary Merrill, Connecticut’s chief elections official. “Now, it is our duty to audit the machine totals from these primaries as we do following every election to ensure the accuracy of our optical scanners. We are committed to making sure Connecticut voters have continued confidence that their votes were recorded accurately and that’s why these independent audits are so vital.”

The audits can begin as soon as September 25, 2013 and must be completed by October 11, 2013.

“Auditing election results isn’t just a good idea, it’s absolutely essential in order to guarantee the integrity of our elections,” said Secretary Merrill. “We don’t just take the machines’ word for it. So we will have every ballot cast in a full 10% of precincts using optical scan machines hand counted and matched against the machine totals. Connecticut has the toughest elections audit law in the country and I am confident that following this audit the numbers will once again match.”

In total, audits will be conducted for sixteen precincts. The law requires a hand audit 10% of all polling places where optical scan machines were used in all elections and primaries. (Polling precincts which are already part of a recount are exempt from audits by statute). In addition to the 16 precincts chosen for an audit, there were also five alternate precincts chosen. The provisions in the law, developed in close cooperation with the computer science department at the University of Connecticut, give Connecticut one of the strictest audit statutes in the country. Connecticut is the first state in New England to require a comprehensive audit of election results.

Connecticut General Statute 9-320f states that 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 results of audits will be analyzed by the University of Connecticut and then presented to the Secretary of the State’s Office and the State Elections Enforcement Commission, and ultimately made available to the public.

The law 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.”

List of polling precincts to be audited:

Town	Polling Place
Bozrah	Fields Memorial School
Enfield	Fermi High School District III
Lisbon	Lisbon Senior Center
Middletown	Wesley School-District 9
New Haven	Helen Grant School Ward 21
North Haven	Green Acres Elementary School
Norwalk	ROTON SCHOOL

Norwalk	Nathan Hale Front Gym
Norwalk	Kendall School
Norwalk	Nathaniel Ely School
Stamford	SPRINGDALE SCHOOL (REAR ENT)
Stamford	STILLMEADOW CHOOOL
Stamford	NEIGHBORS LINK
Stratford	Franklin School 4th
Stratford	Wooster Middle School 6th
Stratford	Bunnell High School 9th

List of Alternate Polling Precincts chosen:

Town	Polling Place
New Haven	Micro Society-Museum Lab School 03 Ward 6
New Haven	Nathan Hale School Ward 18
New Haven	Firehouse Ellsworth Ward 24
Lisbon	Lisbon Town Hall