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- PRESS RELEASE -

SECRETARY MERRILL PRAISES BOND COMMISSION PASSAGE OF KEY FUNDS TO IMPROVE VOTING TECHNOLOGY

SECRETARY OF THE STATE LAUDS BOND COMMISSION APPROVAL OF MORE THAN
\$6.7 MILLION FOR TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES TO DIRECTLY BENEFIT CITIES AND
TOWNS

HARTFORD: Secretary of the State Denise Merrill today praised the State Bond Commission's approval of more than \$6.7 million in funds to make significant technological upgrades to voting and elections management throughout Connecticut. The voting technology bonding package includes funds for municipalities to upgrade every polling precinct in Connecticut to e-poll books to check in voters electronically instead of the current paper-based system. The funds will also cover the following technological improvements:

- Providing new voting systems for disabled voters at every polling place in Connecticut
- Software upgrades and new memory cards for optical scan tabulator machines, will result in quicker, online reporting of election results
- High speed scanners to automate post-election audit process, saving municipalities valuable time and resources

"I am very grateful to the members of the state bond commission for seeing the wisdom of making these key investments in the future of elections in Connecticut," said Secretary Merrill, Connecticut's chief elections official. "We have worked hard over the last few years to modernize voting and election administration, and these changes will result in great improvements both for voters and election officials. This is the realization of one my long term goals, and my hope is that these investments will pay off in shorter lines at the polls on Election Day, more accurate voter rolls, quicker and more accurate election results reporting for the public, and significant cost savings for towns and cities across the state. This makes it possible for elections in Connecticut to really move into the 21st century!"

With enabling legislation enacted in 2014 and 2015 to move forward with electronic poll book technology, Secretary Merrill has already invited vendors from all over the country to submit products for review and evaluation to the UCONN Voting Technology Research (VoTeR) center. The VoTeR center had previously published a set of technical requirements that e-poll book systems must meet in order to be approved for purchasing by Connecticut municipalities. With today's vote of the state bond commission, municipalities can begin to explore purchasing e-poll books with the goal of having new paperless voter check-in systems in place at every polling precinct in time for the 2016 state elections.