Every week from October 8–27, the Office of the Secretary of the State will distribute a Connecticut 2026 General Election Fact Sheet to the media.

Connecticut 2026 General Election Media Fact Sheet

Wednesday, October 21, 2026

FOCUS ON

Election Security

There's No Single Safeguard Protecting Your Vote. There Are Many. And That's by Design.

Connecticut election security is built in layers.

It starts before voting begins, with trained local election officials, bipartisan oversight, and public testing of voting equipment. It continues when voters cast paper ballots on voting machines that are not connected to the internet. And it continues after the polls close, when election officials verify results and randomly selected voting districts are audited using those paper ballots.

The result is a system in which **people, paper, and proof** work together to protect voters and ensure votes are counted accurately.



Three stories worth covering this week

Election Day is one day. Preparing for it is a year-round job. Connecticut's election system depends on local officials, state-level coordination, and partnerships that help communities prepare for challenges before they arise.

Voter education is voter protection. Mis- and disinformation can create confusion about voting rules, polling places, and election results. Knowing how to verify information helps voters protect their rights.

Connecticut doesn't just count votes. It checks the results. After elections, randomly selected voting districts are audited, and state law requires recanvasses under certain circumstances.

STORY IDEA #1

Election Day Is One Day. Preparing for It Is a Year-Round Job.

Connecticut's elections are administered locally, but the officials responsible for running them have a statewide network of support.

Registrars of Voters undergo certification and complete at least **eight hours of required continuing education each year.** The Office of the Secretary of the State provides additional training and guidance as laws, technology, and procedures change.

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Election Day Is One Day. Preparing for It Is a Year-Round Job.

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The Office also works with state and national security partners to identify potential threats, evaluate information relevant to Connecticut, and share guidance with local election officials when appropriate.

That coordination is especially important when unexpected challenges arise, from cybersecurity concerns to severe weather and power outages.

Preparation isn't limited to people. Every Connecticut voting machine is publicly tested before Election Day to verify that it accurately counts votes.

And this work isn't all about preparing for November 3. New election protections and voting procedures are already in effect during the Early Voting period underway now, including Connecticut's new 250-foot election-site protections.

Why it matters: Well-run elections depend on more than the equipment voters see. Local officials need training, accurate information, and reliable support to manage the expected and respond to the unexpected.

Reporting opportunity: Go behind the scenes with the officials who run elections in your community. Ask how they prepare for emergencies, how they test voting equipment, and what has changed for the 2026 General Election.

STORY IDEA #2

Voter Education Is Voter Protection

Knowing Where to Find the Facts Is an Election Security Measure.

Election security isn't only about what happens inside a polling place. It also means making sure voters have accurate information about when, where, and how to cast their ballots.

Mis- and disinformation can create confusion about voting rules, eligibility, election procedures, and results. A misleading social media post or an inaccurate claim about a polling place can reach voters long before they speak with an election official.

The Office of the Secretary of the State works to provide clear, accessible information so voters can recognize misleading claims, verify what they're hearing, and make informed decisions.



Why it matters: Voters shouldn't have to sort through rumors to understand their rights. Reliable, ongoing voter education helps protect participation and build public confidence in the election process.

Reporting opportunity: Examine election claims circulating in your community. Ask election officials what questions or misunderstandings they're encountering, and show audiences how to verify election information using the 2026 Voter Guide, MyVote.CT.gov, and their local election officials.

STORY IDEA #3

Connecticut Doesn't Just Count Votes. It Checks Results.

The verification process continues after voting ends.



After every regular election or primary, at least five percent of voting districts are audited. For the November 3 General Election, **at least 38 of Connecticut's 750 voting precincts** will be selected for post-election audits.

The Secretary of the State randomly selects the districts to be audited in a public drawing. Bipartisan local election officials then re-tabulate voter-marked paper ballots and compare those results with what the voting machines reported. Audit results are independently analyzed by the University of Connecticut. (Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-320f.)

The audit process is open to public observation.

Connecticut law also requires an automatic recanvass in certain close races. For state, district, and municipal offices, a recanvass is required when the margin is less than one-half of one percent of the votes cast for that office, up to a maximum margin of 2,000 votes, or when the margin is fewer than 20 votes. A defeated candidate may waive a qualifying close-vote recanvass in writing. Tied elections also trigger a recanvass. (Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 9-311a and 9-311b.)

Why it matters: Connecticut preserves a physical record of every vote and has public processes for verifying election results. Audits and recanvasses provide additional checks after the initial count.

Reporting opportunity: Once the General Election districts selected for audit are announced, find out whether any are in your community. Attend a public audit and show your audience how local officials compare voter-marked ballots with tabulator totals. Explain when state law requires a recanvass and what that process involves.

How Post-Election Audits Work

1

Random selection

The Secretary of the State publicly selects the voting districts that will undergo audits.

2

Independent check of the count

Bipartisan local election officials re-tabulate voter-marked paper ballots and compare their findings with the tabulator results.

3

Review and analysis

Audit reports are submitted to the University of Connecticut for independent analysis. Findings are made available to the public, and discrepancies are addressed through established procedures.

Said Secretary of the State Stephanie Thomas:

"Most voters will never see the meetings, training, investigations and emergency planning that happen behind the scenes. But they should know that all of this work is happening, that people are working together every day to protect their rights, and that when something goes wrong, there are established processes to address it. Election security isn't one safeguard. It's dozens working together."

ELECTION SECURITY BY THE NUMBERS

8+

Hours of required continuing education each year for Connecticut Registrars of Voters

169

Connecticut municipalities supported by the Office of the Secretary of the State

At least 5%

Of voting districts audited after regular elections and primaries

QUICK ANSWERS

How does Connecticut prevent someone from voting twice?

When a voter casts a ballot during Early Voting, election officials record that the voter has voted in the statewide voter registration system. That prevents the voter from voting again during Early Voting, by absentee ballot, or on Election Day.

For absentee voting, election officials can also see when an absentee ballot has been issued. Absentee ballots received on Election Day are checked against the official Election Day voter list before they are counted.

How can voters verify election information?

Start with trusted sources. The Office of the Secretary of the State publishes the 2026 Voter Guide in English and Spanish, along with election information at MyVote.CT.gov.

Voters can also check their registration status and polling place at MyVote.CT.gov/lookup or contact their local Registrar of Voters. If a claim about voting rules, deadlines, or locations sounds questionable, verify it before sharing it.

What should voters know about Connecticut's new 250-foot election-site protections?

Connecticut has new restrictions on certain activities within 250 feet of designated election sites, including polling places, Early Voting locations, and absentee-ballot drop boxes.

The restrictions cover certain law-enforcement activities and face coverings, with exceptions established by law.

The Office of the Secretary of the State has published a guide explaining where and when the rule applies, what activities are restricted, what law enforcement officers may still do, and how potential violations can be reported.

Read Connecticut's 250-Foot Election Security Rule: What You Need to Know.

Who investigates election-law concerns?

Connecticut's independent State Elections Enforcement Commission (SEEC) investigates potential violations of election law. Report potential election-law violations at **(866) SEEC-INFO** or through the SEEC website.

Websites, Resources, and Contact Information

November 3, 2026 General Election Calendar

2026 Voter Guide — English

2026 Voter Guide — Spanish

Connecticut's 250-Foot Election Security Rule: What You Need to Know

REPORT VOTING ISSUES

During Early Voting
(860) 256-2925
Elections@CT.gov

On Election Day
(866) 733-2463
Elections@CT.gov

Potential election-law violations
State Elections Enforcement Commission
(866) SEEC-INFO
SEEC website

Absentee Ballot Information — **MyVote.CT.gov/Absentee**

Downloadable Early Voting One-Sheets in English and Spanish — **Civics101.CT.gov**

Office of the Secretary of the State Elections & Voter Information — **MyVote.CT.gov**

Voter Registration Lookup Tool — **MyVote.CT.gov/lookup**

Election Night Results Reporting

Election Results Archive

Connecticut General Statutes Title 9 — Elections

Miss last week's fact sheet about Early Voting?

Download the October 16 PDF here.

Need a quote from Secretary Thomas or other information from the Office of the Secretary of the State?

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