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- NEWS RELEASE -

## **SECRETARY MERRILL DRAWS PRECINCTS TO HAVE NOVEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup> PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION 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; MERRILL STILL MISSING VOTER TURNOUT STATISTICS FROM 13 CITIES  
AND TOWNS

**Hartford:** Secretary of the State Denise Merrill today announced the 75 voting precincts that will have election results audited following the November 6, 2012 presidential election. The voting precincts were randomly selected with Connecticut Voting Rights advocates at a news conference at the State Capitol yesterday. 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, 747 polling precincts used optical scan voting machines on November 6<sup>th</sup>, meaning that some 75 precincts were chosen to have their election results audited. Secretary Merrill is also asking all Connecticut cities and towns to report voter turnout statistics to the Secretary of the State's office as required by state law. As of today, November 20, 2012, some two weeks after the election, the following municipalities have still not reported the number of registered voters to cast ballots on Election Day: Chaplin, Chester, Hartford, Meriden, Middlefield, North Canaan, Preston, Prospect, Sherman, Stratford, Washington, Winchester, and Windham.

“We had a remarkably smooth Presidential election on November 6<sup>th</sup>, especially given our state of recovery from Hurricane Sandy,” said Secretary Merrill, Connecticut’s chief elections official. “Now, it is our duty to audit the machine totals from the 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. I also implore the cities and towns who have not yet reported their voter turnout to please report those numbers to us. It is required by law and we cannot make a complete, statewide report of voter turnout – that the public rightly expects and demands – without information from your communities. This information was certainly known on Election night or shortly thereafter, and by law is supposed to be reported to our office together with election results. A two-week delay in reporting turnout statistics is inexplicable.”

The post-election audits can begin as of November 21, 2012 and must be complete by Monday December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

“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 in 75 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 75 precincts chosen for an audit, there were also 10 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:

<b>Town</b>	<b>Polling Place</b>
Andover	Andover Town Hall
Berlin	American Legion
Bloomfield	Bloomfield High School
Bozrah	Fields Memorial School
Bridgeport	CITY HALL
Bristol	Mountainview School Dist. 1
Bristol	Stafford School 77 Dist. 3

Cheshire	Artsplace - Dist. 3
Cheshire	Cheshire High School - Dist. 1
Chester	Chester Town Office Building
Clinton	Andrews Memorial Town Hall
Colchester	Assemble of God Church Dist. 2
Cornwall	Town Hall
Danbury	War Memorial Gym - Ward 5
East Hartford	Saint Christopher Church Hall
East Windsor	Town Hall Annex
Essex	Essex Town Hall 01
Greenwich	Central Middle School Dist. 8
Guilford	A. W Cox School District 5
Hartford	Batchelder School
Hartford	Kennelly School
Hartford	North End Senior Center - 80 Coventry St
Lebanon	Fire Saftey Complex
Madison	District 1 (South)
Manchester	Verplanck School
Meriden	Casimir Pulaski School Area 4
Middletown	Senior Cntr./Sbona Towers District 14
Milford	Harborside Middle School District 5
Naugatuck	Central Avenue School
New Britain	ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH HALL District 10
New Canaan	New Canaan High School Gym
New Fairfield	Co A Firehouse
New Haven	Atwater Senior Center 03 Ward 14
New Haven	Dwight School 01 - Library Ward 23
New Haven	Eastview Tarrance
New Haven	Micro Society-Museum Lab School Ward 6
New Haven	Truman School Ward 4
New Haven	West Hills/Micro Society School Ward 30-02
New Milford	Lanesville Fire House
New Milford	Northville School
Newington	John Wallace Middle School---District 5
North Branford	Jerome Harrison Elementary School
North Branford	Stanley T. Williams School
Norwich	John M. Moriarty School
Oxford	Quaker Farms School
Plainville	Wheeler School
Putnam	Town Garage District 2
Sharon	Sharon Town Hall
Shelton	Shelton Intermediate School 2-01
Southington	Thalberg School
Stamford	DOMUS (OLD ROGERS SCHOOL)
Stamford	ROXBURY SCHOOL
Stamford	SPRINGDALE SCHOOL (REAR ENT.)

Stamford	WESTOVER SCHOOL
Stratford	Lordship School 2 121 21
Stratford	Nichols School 6
Tolland	Senior Center
Torrington	City Hall
Trumbull	St Joseph High School Dist. 2
Vernon	Skinner Road School
Wallingford	Wallingford Senior Center
Waterbury	BLESSED SACRAMENT SCHOOL
Waterford	Great Neck School District 4
West Hartford	Braeburn School District 8
West Haven	Mackrille School Voting District 8
West Haven	Pagels School Voting District 10
West Haven	Surfside Senior Housing Voting District 2
Westbrook	Theresa Mulvey Municipal Center - 1
Westport	Greens Farms Elementary School Auditorium District 5A
Westport	Long Lots Elementary School Gym District 7
Wethersfield	Keeney Cultural Center
Winchester	Pearson School
Windsor	L. P. Wilson
Wolcott	Tyrrell Middle School
Woodbury	Senior/Community Center

List of Alternate Polling Precincts chosen:

<b>Town</b>	<b>Polling Place</b>
New Britain	PULASKI MIDDLE SCHOOL District 12
New Haven	Hillhouse High School Ward 28
Bristol	The Polish Club
Branford	Indian Neck School - Voting District 5, Precinct 0
Haddam	Haddam Neck Firehouse
Hartford	Burns School
Guilford	Abraham Baldwin School
West Haven	Washington School District 3
West Hartford	West Hartford Town Hall District 3
Waterford	Oswegatchie School District 3