



**DENISE MERRILL**  
SECRETARY OF THE STATE  
CONNECTICUT

For Immediate Release:  
December 18, 2012

For more information:  
Av Harris: (860) 509-6255  
Cell: (860) 463-5939

- NEWS RELEASE -

**SECRETARY MERRILL AWARDS 2012 DEMOCRACY  
CUP TO STAMFORD FOR HIGHEST VOTER  
TURNOUT IN A CITY**

SECRETARY OF THE STATE AWARDING DEMOCRACY CUP TROPHIES TO CITY, LARGE TOWN,  
MID-SIZE TOWN AND SMALL TOWN WITH HIGHEST VOTER TURNOUT FOR NOVEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>  
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

**Hartford:** Secretary of the State Denise Merrill today presented the 2012 “Democracy Cup” for the highest voter turnout percentage in the 2012 Presidential election in Connecticut to the city of Stamford (71.6%). The award is given annually to the small, mid-sized, large towns and city with the highest voter turnout on Election Day. The other winners of the 2012 Democracy Cup for voter turnout are Bridgewater (94.75%), Granby (86.22%), and Middletown (89.86%).

“We saw a very strong voter turnout of 74% of registered voters statewide on Election Day in 2012, despite the difficult challenges presented in our state by damage from Hurricane Sandy,” said Secretary Merrill, Connecticut’s Chief Elections Official. “Yet, the voters in Stamford and the other communities who win the award this year really set an example for all of the voters in Connecticut of why elections and participating in democracy are important. I congratulate Stamford for doing the best job of any city 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 Stamford,” said Scot Mackinnon, co-founder of the Democracy Cup and

East Haddam Civic Association member. “While rural Bridgewater’s 94.75% was the best turnout overall, Waterbury's nearly 72% 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 74% in the 2012 General Election, slightly less than the last Presidential election turnout of 78.14% in 2008, in what may have been a result of difficulties in transportation and communication due to power outages and downed tree limbs from Hurricane Sandy.

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 Granby will take place Friday December 21<sup>st</sup> and the presentations for Middletown and Bridgewater will take place on Thursday December 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Democracy Cup Winners  
2000-2012**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>SMALL TOWN</b>	<b>MID-SIZE TOWN</b>	<b>LARGE TOWN</b>	<b>CITY</b>
2012	Bridgewater	Granby	Middletown	Stamford
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	