



DENISE MERRILL
SECRETARY OF THE STATE
CONNECTICUT

For Immediate Release:
May 15, 2012

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

- NEWS RELEASE -

SECRETARY MERRILL DRAWS PRECINCTS TO HAVE REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE 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 April 24th Republican Presidential Preference Primary. 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, 598 polling precincts used optical scan voting machines on April 24th, meaning that some 60 precincts were chosen to have their election results audited.



Secretary Merrill (left) selects voting precincts that will be subject to post election audits. At right is Jean de Smet of the Connecticut Citizen Election audit Coalition.

“Registered Republicans had their say on April 24th about who they want as their 2012 presidential nominee,” said Secretary Merrill, Connecticut’s chief elections official. “Now, it is our duty to audit the machine totals from the Presidential Preference Primary 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 no sooner than May 15, 2012 and must be completed by June 1, 2012.

“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 sixty 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 60 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:

Town	Polling Place
Berlin	Willard School
Bridgeport	BASSICK HIGH SCHOOL
Bridgeport	BLACK ROCK SCHOOL
Bridgeport	HARDING HIGH SCHOOL
Chester	Chester Town Office Building
Colchester	Colchester Town Hall
Danbury	Pembroke School Gym - Ward 2
Darien	District 6 / Town Hall

East Hartford	Silver Lane School
East Haven	Momauguin School 2
East Haven	Overbrook School 4
Fairfield	Penfield Pavilion I Recreation Center Dist. 10
Glastonbury	District 4 - Gideon Welles School
Griswold	Griswold Town Hall
Groton	William Seely School Dist. 4
Guilford	Melissa Jones School
Guilford	Calvin Leete School
Hamden	Miller Library Dist. 1
Hartford	Y W C A - 135 Broad St.
Hartford	United Methodist Church
Manchester	Keeney School
Middletown	Senior Cntr./Sbona Towers District 14
Naugatuck	Western School - A
Naugatuck	Cross Street School - A
Naugatuck	City Hill Middle School
New Britain	School Apartments District 5-1
New Haven	Lincoln-Bassett School Ward 20
New Haven	Firehouse Howard Ward 5
New Milford	Catherine E Lillis Building
New Milford	Lanesville Fire House
North Branford	Jerome Harrison Elementary School
North Branford	Stanley T. Williams School
North Haven	Green Acres Elementary School
North Stonington	New Town Hall
Norwalk	Nathan Hale Front Gym
Norwich	Samuel Huntington
Norwich	John M. Moriarty School
Old Lyme	Cross Lane Firehouse
Plainville	Linden Street School
Salisbury	Town Hall
Southbury	Sacred Heart Church District #2
Southington	Tabernacle
Stamford	Stillmeadow School
Stratford	Johnson House 2 121 23
Thompson	Quinebaug Volunteer Fire Department
Torrington	Coe Park
Torrington	Middle School
Trumbull	Middlebrook School Dist. 5
Wallingford	Parker Farms School
Waterbury	Maloney School
Waterbury	WENDELL CROSS SCHOOL (3 RD)
Waterbury	Willow Plaza Center
Watertown	Swift Middle School
Watertown	Heminway Park School
West Hartford	King Philip School 1-1
West Haven	Pagels School Voting District 10
Wilton	Wilton High School - District 1
Winchester	Pearson School
Windsor	Windsor Town Hall
Windsor	Rainbow Firehouse

List of Alternate Polling Precincts chosen:

Town	Polling Place
1. Torrington	Armory
2. Manchester	Buckley School
3. Fairfield	Holland Hill School Dist. 8
4. Trumbull	Tashua School Dist. 3
5. Norwalk	West Rocks School
6. New Britain	State Armory District 6
7. Waterbury	Regan School
8. New Britain	New Britain Senior Center District 5
9. New Britain	HRA of New Britain District 11
10. New Haven	Bishop Wood School 11-02