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- NEWS RELEASE -

## **SECRETARY MERRILL DRAWS PRECINCTS TO HAVE MUNICIPAL ELECTION RESULTS AUDITED**

10% OF ALL VOTING PRECINCTS 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 advocate at a news conference at the State Capitol to randomly select the voting precincts which will have election results audited following the November 5<sup>th</sup> municipal elections. As required by Connecticut General Statute 9-320f, An Act Concerning the Integrity and Security of the Voting Process, ten percent of the polling precincts used in the election are subject to an audit. All told, 657 polling precincts were used on November 5<sup>th</sup> meaning that 66 precincts will have their election results audited.



“We had very smooth municipal elections on November 5<sup>th</sup>, and I am proud of our local election officials for successfully implementing our new Election Day Registration law,” said Secretary Merrill, Connecticut’s chief elections official. “Now that the votes are counted and the recounts complete, we now must take the step of auditing the machine totals from Election Day 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 November 20, 2013 and must be completed by December 13, 2013.

“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 all our precincts hand counted and matched against the machine totals. Connecticut has the toughest elections audit law in the country and I am confident at the end of this year’s audit the numbers will once again match.”

In total, audits will be conducted in sixty-six precincts. Since 2013 was a municipal election, the Town Clerk in each community facing an audit will choose which three local races will have their results audited in the precincts selected today. The law requires a hand audit 10% of all polling places in all elections and primaries. (Polling precincts which are already part of a recount are exempt from audits by statute). In addition to the 66 precincts chosen for an audit, there were also 20 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>
Ashford	Knowlton Town Hall
Avon	Avon High School - Gymnasium
Avon	Fireshouse Company #1
Berlin	Willard School
Bethel	Frank A. Berry School - 5

Bristol	Chpn's Hill School Dist. 2
Canton	Canton Town Hall
Chaplin	Town Hall
Cheshire	Dodd Middle School - Dist. 7
Cheshire	Highland School - Voting Dist. 6
Danbury	Pembroke School Gym - Ward 2
East Lyme	East Lyme Community Center
Glastonbury	District 7 - Academy Building
Greenwich	New Lebanon School Dist. 4
Hamden	Miller Library Dist. 1
Harwinton	Town Hall Assembly Room
Hebron	Hebron Elementary School
Killingly	Killingly Intermediate School Dist. 2
Killingly	South Killingly Fire Station Dist. 3
Killingworth	Killingworth Elementary School
Ledyard	Juliet Long Elementary School Dist. 3
Mansfield	Mansfield Fire Department #107@Eagleville
Meriden	Immanuel Lutheran Church Area 4 District 1
Meriden	Lincoln Middle School Area 4 District 13
Meriden	Washington Middle School Area 2 District 6
Monroe	Monroe Elementary School
Montville	Town Hall-Gym-1
New Canaan	New Canaan High School Gym
New Milford	Catherine E Lillis Building
New Milford	Northville School
New Milford	Pettibone School
Newington	Anna Reynolds School ---District---3
Newington	John Paterson School---District---6
Newington	John Wallace Middle School---District 58
Newtown	Middle School Gym A - District 1
Norfolk	Town Hall
Plainville	Linden Street School
Seymour	Paul E Chatfield School
Sharon	Sharon Town Hall
Simsbury	Tootin Hill School
Southington	De Paolo School
Southington	Kelly School
Southington	South End School
Stafford	Old Town Hall
Stamford	DOMUS (OLD ROGERS SCHOOL)
Stamford	JULIA A. STARK SCHOOL
Stamford	LONG RIDGE CHURCH
Stonington	BF Hoxie Engine Company Dist 4
Tolland	Hicks Gym-1
Vernon	Vernon Center Middle School
Wallingford	Cook Hill School
Wallingford	Parker Farms School
Waterbury	BLESSED SACRAMENT SCHOOL

Waterbury	GILMARTIN SCHOOL
Waterbury	Regan School
Waterbury	Tinker School
Waterbury	WENDELL CROSS SCHOOL (3RD)
Watertown	Swift Middle School
West Hartford	King Philip School District 1
Westport	Saugatuck Elementary School District 1
Wethersfield	Emerson Williams School
Wethersfield	Incarnation Church Hall
Wethersfield	Webb Elementary School
Wilton	Middlebrook School - District 3
Windham	B.P.O.E. Elks 1311 Assembly District 48
Windsor	Rainbow Firehouse

List of Alternate Polling Precincts chosen:

<b><u>Town</u></b>	<b><u>Polling Place</u></b>
Stafford	West Stafford Fire Department
Hamden	Helen Street School Dist. 2
West Hartford	Bristow Middle School District 2
Manchester	Verplanck School
East Haddam	Nathan Hale Ray Middle School
Glastonbury	District 1 - Smith Middle School
Trumbull	Madison School Dist. 3
Hamden	Board Of Education Building Dist. 5
Danbury	War Memorial Gym - Ward 5
Southington	Derynoski School
Darien	District 3 / Holmes School
Manchester	Buckley School
Waterbury	CHASE SCHOOL
Waterbury	Washington Park Community House
Morris	Morris Community Hall
Brookfield	Huckleberry Hill School
Greenwich	North Mianus School Dist. 12
Cromwell	Cromwell High School
Ledyard	Juliet Long Elementary School Dist. 2
Beacon Falls	Laurel Ledge School Gym