



DENISE W. MERRILL

SECRETARY OF THE STATE
CONNECTICUT

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MERRILL: VOTING AT TWO HARTFORD POLLING PRECINCTS EXTENDED UNTIL 8:30 P.M.

HARTFORD SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE ORDERS EXTENDING POLLING HOURS DUE TO LACK OF VOTER LISTS AT TWO PRECINCTS

HARTFORD: Secretary of the State Denise Merrill this evening announced that voting at two Hartford polling precincts has been extended by 30 minutes until 8:30 p.m. The two polling precincts where voting hours have been extended are:

- Batchelder School Gym, 757 New Britain Avenue
- United Methodist Church, 571 Farmington Avenue

The extension was ordered by Hartford Superior Court Judge Carl Schuman after arguments were brought in favor of the move by the Connecticut Democratic Party and the Malloy for Governor campaign. Judge Schuman found that voters at those two polling precincts were disenfranchised when they arrived to vote early this morning and were told they would be able to cast ballots because there were no voter lists present at the polling place. Judge Schuman also asked Secretary Merrill's office to investigate the circumstances surrounding why voter lists were not distributed to all Hartford polling precincts prior to polls opening for the general election today at 6:00 a.m.

"I commend Judge Schuman's measured and reasonable ruling that allows any voter at these two polling places in Hartford denied their right to vote – due to a lack of preparation by local election officials – to cast a ballot until 8:30 p.m. tonight," said Secretary Merrill, Connecticut's chief elections official. "The bottom line is that every single voter in Hartford who is eligible to vote today and wants to cast a ballot will get to vote, no matter what. The situation in Hartford this morning was absolutely unacceptable. Voters in Connecticut rightly expect that when they go to their polling place they should be able to vote without disruption. Once all votes are cast tonight, my office will absolutely investigate why Hartford was not prepared for Election Day. Those found responsible will be held accountable. To that end, my office is referring these circumstances and the apparent gross dereliction of duty by Hartford's Registrars of Voters to the State Elections Enforcement Commission for further investigation to determine if any state election laws were violated."

Secretary Merrill continued, "Preparing voter lists, printing them out, and distributing them to polling places before the polls open at 6:00 a.m. on Election Day is essential to running an orderly election. Hartford has done this process many times. It is unconscionable to our office that the steps were not taken in advance of voters arriving at the polling places this morning, leading some voters to be turned away from the polls and others to leave in frustration. This should never happen in Connecticut or anywhere."