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- NEWS RELEASE -

## **SECRETARY MERRILL DRAWS 68 PRECINCTS TO HAVE AUGUST 12<sup>TH</sup> PRIMARY RESULTS AUDITED**

10% OF ALL VOTING PRECINCTS USING OPTICAL SCANNERS WILL HAVE BALLOTS  
HAND COUNTED AND MATCHED AGAINST MACHINE TOTALS TO ENSURE ACCURACY  
OF MACHINE COUNTS

**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 August 12, 2014 statewide primaries. 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, 677 polling precincts used optical scan voting machines on August 12<sup>th</sup>, meaning that some 68 precincts were chosen to have their election results audited.

“Voters had their say on August 12<sup>th</sup> about who they want on the general election ballot,” said Secretary Merrill, Connecticut’s chief elections official. “Now, it is our duty to audit the machine totals from the statewide primaries 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. 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.”

The audits can begin as of today and must be completed by September 12, 2014. 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 68 precincts chosen for an audit, there were also 9 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>
Barkhamsted	Barkhamsted Elementary School
Berlin	Hubbard School
Bethel	Stony Hill Fire House -2
Bridgeport	J.F.K. CAMPUS
Bridgeport	LUIS MUNOZ MARIN
Bristol	Mountain View School
East Haven	Hays School 5
East Lyme	East Lyme Community Center
East Lyme	East Lyme High School
Enfield	J F K Middle School - District I
Farmington	West Woods School - District 1, Precinct 5
Glastonbury	District 5 - Nayaug Elementary School
Greenwich	Bendheim Western Greenwich Civic Cnt. Dist. 9
Greenwich	Glenville School Dist. 10
Greenwich	Greenwich High School Dist. 7
Greenwich	Julian Curtiss School Dist. 1
Greenwich	Old Greenwich School Dist. 6
Guilford	A. W Cox School
Guilford	Melissa Jones School
Hamden	Keefe Community Center Dist. 3
Hartford	United Methodist Church - 571 Farmington Ave - Voting District #5

Killingly	Killingly High School 1 District 2
Killingly	Killingly High School 1 District 4
Killingly	Killingly High School 2 District 2
Killingly	South Killingly Fire Station District 3
Madison	District 1 (South)
Manchester	Buckley School
Meriden	Israel Putnam School Area 3 PCT. 11
Middletown	Macdonough School-District 1
Middletown	Snow School-Gym District 8
Middletown	Woodrow Wilson Middle Sch. District 11
Milford	Orange Avenue School - District 119-1
Montville	Mohegan Fire House-2
Naugatuck	Cross Street School - A
New Britain	ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH HALL Distrcit 10
New Haven	Bella Vista 11-01
New Haven	Edgewood School Ward 25
New Haven	Hillhouse High School Ward 28
New Haven	John S. Martinez School Ward 16
New Haven	Lincoln-Bassett School Ward 20
New Haven	New Horizons School Ward 6 - 03
New Haven	Truman School Ward 4 - 95
North Haven	Ridge Road Elementary School
Norwalk	West Rocks School
Prospect	Community School
Ridgefield	Scotts Ridge Middle School-4
Seymour	Paul E Chatfield School
Southbury	Community Building
Southington	Kelley School
Southington	Kennedy School
Southington	Thalberg School
Stamford	DAVENPORT RIDGE SCHOOL
Stamford	TURN OF RIVER SCHOOL
Stamford	WESTOVER SCHOOL
Stonington	Pawcatuck Fire House
Stratford	Second Hill Lane School 10th
Stratford	Wooster Middle School 6th
Trumbull	Middlebrook School Dist. 4
Trumbull	St Joseph High School Dist. 2
Wallingford	Yalesville Elementary School
Waterbury	Chase School
Waterbury	Gilmartin School
Waterbury	Jonathan Reed School
Waterbury	St. Peter and Paul School gym
West Haven	Pagels School Voting District 10
West Haven	Washington School District 3
Westport	Coleytown Middle School Gymnasium District 136-2
Windsor Locks	Windsor Locks High School

List of Alternate Polling Precincts chosen:

<b>Town</b>	<b>Polling Place</b>
East Hartford	Silver Lane School
Meriden	John Barry School Area 1 PCT. 3
Middletown	Snow School-Gym-District 7
New Haven	Firehouse Ellsworth Ward 24
Stafford	West Stafford Fire Department
Stamford	OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA
Waterbury	Mount Olive A M E Zion Church
West Hartford	King Philip School District 1
West Haven	Mackrille School Voting District 8