



**DENISE W. MERRILL**  
SECRETARY OF THE STATE  
CONNECTICUT

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## **SECRETARY OF THE STATE AIMS TO REVOLUTIONIZE VOTING DEVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN CONNECTICUT**

**HARTFORD:** Connecticut Secretary of the State Denise Merrill issued a bid request for new voting devices that will make casting a ballot easier for people with disabilities.

Secretary Merrill said, “We have heard from voters with disabilities that the current voting machines are not as easy to use as they should be. So we are taking action. We look forward to seeing what the bidding parties can offer the voters of Connecticut.”

The bid seeks to replace a vote-by-phone-fax system. Under the existing model, poll workers use a designated telephone with a secure, pre-registered number to enter the system. Voters are then given a telephone handset after the calls are answered by a computer system that provides an audio ballot. Voters are able to make, and review, their choices. Once the call is ended, the ballot is immediately faxed back to the polling place.

The proposed model envisions using a new electronic voting system that will mark computerized ballots and not rely on a telephone line. These ballots will be printable and scan-able for more efficiency for voters. The marking device is intended to be adaptable to a variety of assistive technologies.

Bids are due by March 31, 2016.

The bid is online here: [https://www.biznet.ct.gov/SCP\\_Search/BidDetail.aspx?CID=38960](https://www.biznet.ct.gov/SCP_Search/BidDetail.aspx?CID=38960)

