



DENISE W. MERRILL
SECRETARY OF THE STATE
CONNECTICUT

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For more information:
Patrick Gallahue: (860) 509-6255
Cell: (860) 463-5939

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CONNECTICUT'S BEST OF THE BALLOT BOX! FOUR WINNERS OF 2016 DEMOCRACY CUP

SECRETARY OF THE STATE AWARDS DEMOCRACY CUP TROPHIES TO POMFRET, SOMERS, WALLINGFORD AND GREENWICH FOR HIGHEST VOTER TURNOUT IN 2016 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

HARTFORD: Four Connecticut towns earned the coveted Democracy Cup, which is awarded to municipalities that saw the highest voter turnout in the state in the 2016 presidential election. Secretary of the State Denise Merrill will present titles in four categories based on town size—small, mid-sized, large and city. The winners were Pomfret (small), Somers (mid-sized), Wallingford (large) and Greenwich (city).

Secretary Merrill said, “The citizens of these towns produced electrifying results with turnout ranging from an impressive 85 percent to a whopping 95 percent. This kind of participation is like the four-minute-mile of elections. It is in a league of its own! While towns and cities host the trophies, democracy is the real winner”

Under Democracy Cup criteria, towns with fewer than 5,000 people are considered small; municipalities with between 5,000 and 14,999 are considered mid-sized; towns with between 15,000 and 49,999 people are considered large towns. Municipalities with more than 50,000 people are categorized as cities. The competition has been co-sponsored by the East Haddam Civic Association since 2000.

Scot Mackinnon, cofounder of the Democracy Cup and East Haddam Civic Association member said, “As is often the case with presidential election cycles, voter turnout, at all levels, is usually

much better than in non-presidential years. However, 2016 was one of the best years on record. Connecticut cities and towns expect to have their best voter turnout in locally contentious races but 2016 was an especially controversial year at the national level driving heavy voter participation across the country. Congratulations to (first time) winners Pomfret, Somers, Wallingford and Greenwich.”

In the 2016 general election, a record 1,675,955 people cast a ballot out of an all-time high 2,178,169 registered voters, amounting to just under 77 percent turnout. Turnout surpassed the previous record of 1,644,845 voters set in 2008.

Turnout among the four winners was: 90.65% in Pomfret, 94.55 percent in Somers; 87.13 in Wallingford and 85.22 percent in Greenwich. Each community awarded the Democracy Cup will be able to host and display a trophy through the next presidential election.

**Democracy Cup Winners
2000-2016**

Year	SMALL TOWN	MID-SIZE TOWN	LARGE TOWN	CITY
2016	Pomfret	Somers	Wallingford	Greenwich
2014	Cornwall	Guilford	Glastonbury	Fairfield
2012	Bridgewater	Granby	Middletown	Stamford
2011	Hampton	Middlebury	Trumbull	Waterbury
2010	Roxbury	Granby	Simsbury	Stamford
2009	Bridgewater	Orange	East Haven	Stamford
2008	New Hartford	Avon	Newtown	Stamford
2007	East Haven	North Haven	West Hartford	
2006	Union	Westport	West Hartford	
2005	Middlebury	Shelton	West Hartford	
2004	Washington	Wethersfield	Fairfield	
2003	Washington	Naugatuck	West Hartford	
2002	Middlebury	Glastonbury	West Hartford	
2001	Washington	Trumbull	Waterbury	
2000	Essex	Westport	West Hartford	