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- NEWS RELEASE -

BYSIEWICZ: RESULTS OF AUDIT FOLLOWING 2009 MAY MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS SHOW ACCURATE MACHINE COUNTS

HAND COUNT OF MACHINE TOTALS FOR TWO NAUGATUCK POLLING PLACES
COMPLETE

HARTFORD: Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz announced today that post election audits conducted at two polling places in Naugatuck showed extremely accurate machine counts during the Municipal Elections held May 4, 2009. Polling places located at Central Avenue and Oak Terrace in Naugatuck were chosen at random on May 8th to undergo hand count audits of the machine totals for the May Municipal Elections, representing 10% of all voting precincts in Connecticut for that election.

“Once again, these hand count audits have reinforced the integrity of our elections and show that our optical scan voting system is secure and extremely accurate,” said Secretary Bysiewicz. “No matter the size of the election, Connecticut’s post-election audit procedures are the toughest in the nation and they exist to ensure that the will of the voters expressed by the paper ballots is reflected in the machine counts on Election Day. Connecticut voters can be confident in the integrity of our elections and that their votes were counted correctly.”

As required by Public Act 07-194, An Act Concerning the Integrity and Security of the Voting Process, 10% percent of the polling precincts used in the election are subject to an audit. Deputy Secretary Mara directed that a pool of 13 precincts from the six towns that held municipal elections May 4th, not counting precincts that required a recount, be used for the selection. A review of the audit results has been completed by the Office of the Secretary of State and showed that there was no discrepancy in the counts at the Oak Terrace precinct, while there was only a discrepancy of one vote at the Central Avenue

precinct in the race for City Treasurer. In the majority of cases, small discrepancies between machine totals and hand-counts are due to human error in the auditing process.

Municipal elections on May 4, 2009 took place in the following communities: The towns of Andover, Bethany, Bolton, Naugatuck, Union and Woodbridge, the Boroughs of Litchfield, Naugatuck, Newtown, Stonington, Bantam(Litchfield), Danielson(Killingly), Fenwick(Old Saybrook), Jewett City(Griswold), Woodmont(Milford) and the City of Groton. The majority of Connecticut's municipalities will hold primaries if necessary on September 15, 2009 and a General Election for municipal candidates on November 3, 2009.