





0	<b>Connecticut Citizen Election Audit Coalition</b>	
0	 League of Women Voters of Connecticut	0  Connecticut <b>COMMON CAUSE</b> <i>Holding Power Accountable</i>
0	 Connecticut Citizen Action Group	0  <b>CTVotersCount.org</b> because Connecticut voters count

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## **Coalition Finds Small Improvements and New Problem in Connecticut Post-Election Audits**

**Citizen observation and analysis shows some improvements along with a newly uncovered problem with the random selection process**

**Hartford, Connecticut** –Today, the Connecticut Citizen Election Audit Coalition released its report on the August 2010 primary post-election audits. This is the sixth major post-election audit observation report by the Coalition since the adoption of optical scanners and paper ballots statewide.

Coalition Executive Director, Luther Weeks noted, “Unfortunately, we discovered that the list of polling districts for the random audit drawing was missing some districts and is otherwise inaccurate and ambiguous. The integrity of the audit requires an accurate list of districts that is verifiable by the public. We have extended our recommendations to the Legislature to include an efficient fix to this problem.”

League of Women Voters of Connecticut President, Cheryl Dunson said: “Compared to previous audits, the Coalition noted continuing incremental improvements in the attention to detail, following procedures, and in the chain-of-custody by election officials. We caution that the primary audit is simpler and shorter than those for November elections which may account much more accurate counting this time.”

From the report, we conclude that August post-election audits still do not inspire confidence because of:

- *failure in the integrity of the random district selection process,*
- *lack of standards for determining need for further investigation of discrepancies,*
- *weaknesses in the ballot chain of custody, and*
- *lack of, consistency, reliability, and transparency in the conduct of the audit.*

Connecticut Citizen Action Group Executive Director, Tom Swan said, “The integrity of the entire audit is dependent the ballot chain-of-custody and on every step of the audit being accurately accomplished in a consistent, transparent, and professional manner. We continue to support our past recommendations to the Secretary of the State and the Legislature for improvement in the post-election audit laws, counting procedures, and chain-of-custody.”

Weeks added, “We look forward to the post-election audit of the November election. We hope to see significant improvement in following procedures along with more accurate counting, demonstrated in the November post-election audit which will involve more extensive, complex counting. ”

Observers came from the membership ranks of the coalition partners -- The League of Women Voters of Connecticut, The Connecticut Citizen Action Group, Common Cause Connecticut, and Connecticut Voters Count. Without volunteer observers, nobody but a small number of local election officials would know what happens in post-election audits.

**The coalition’s reports are available online at: <http://www.CTElectionAudit.org>**