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**For Immediate Release: Thursday, January 17, 2008**

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## **Coalition Says Changes Needed in Election Audits**

*Four good government groups have proposed 18 recommendations to improve the state's post-election audit process to assure the integrity of the vote in Connecticut.*

**Hartford, Connecticut** -- Today the Connecticut Citizen Election Audit Coalition recommended 18 steps to a more effective and meaningful post-election audit process for all future elections in the state. The group's report summarized the observations of more than 50 impartial citizen observers at 31 state-mandated post-election audits conducted by local officials following November's municipal elections. Observers came from the membership ranks of the coalition partners—the League of Women Voters of Connecticut, Common Cause Connecticut, the Connecticut Citizen Action Group, and CTVotersCount.

Coalition spokesperson Luther Weeks noted, "Many of the audits, as observed, leave us uncertain as to whether an error or fraud would have been detected in an audited race in this election. More rigorous controls and consistency in manual counting procedures are needed throughout the state, along with follow-up investigations to explain variations in the tallies to attribute discrepancies either to machine or to human error."

League Vice President Cheryl Dunson stated that, "in light of the growing use of electronic voting technology throughout the country, elections officials and good government groups are re-examining their election operations. The coalition recommends that the Secretary of the State provide local elections officials with specific directions for auditing and reporting, make a full public report of all post-election audit results, and establish clear criteria for further investigation of audit discrepancies". The group urged state elections officials to seek out national efforts on "best practices" for conducting audits and ensuring maximum transparency in the audit process.

The coalition's report and a statistical summary is available online at <http://www.CTElectionAudit.org>