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Citizen Audit Cites Improvements, Faults Flaws, in Official Election Audits


Citizen Audit spokesperson Luther Weeks stated, “We appreciate improvements made by the Secretary of the State’s Office. We remain disappointed after eight years that significant improvements remain to achieve a credible audit, especially by local election officials, in too many municipalities.”

Improvements noted by the Citizen Audit include:

▲ Small, yet significant improvements in and corrections to the Official Audit Procedures made by the Secretary of the State’s Office (SOTS Office) at the request of the Citizen Audit.

▲ Increased integrity and credibility of the audit based on a Citizen Audit of the random drawing of districts and races. (As reported separately on 1/21/2015)
  ➢ Significantly fewer errors in the random drawing list in November 2014 compared to November 2013.
  ➢ Public and transparent drawing of races to be audited after the November election.

The audit observation report concluded that the official audit results do not inspire confidence after eight years and fourteen audits, because of the continued:

▼ Lack of consistency, reliability, and transparency in the conduct of the audit.

▼ Discrepancies between machine counts and hand counts reported to the Secretary of the State by municipalities.

▼ Lack of investigation of such discrepancies, and the lack of standards for triggering such investigations.

▼ Weaknesses in the ballot chain-of-custody.

The audit observations also uncovered tabulator errors and inadequate election procedures which cause some votes for registered write-in candidates to not be counted.

The Connecticut Citizen Election Audit has organized volunteer observers and provided independent post-election audit reports since the adoption of optical scanners statewide in 2007. All reports and backup data are available online at:

http://www.CTElectionAudit.org

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