





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

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Contact: Luther Weeks, 860-918-2115 or Luther@CTElectionAudit.org

Coalition Continuing Issues With Post-Election Audits

Citizen observation and analysis show little, if any, improvement in November post-election audits. Coalition calls again for legislature to act.

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

The Coalition noted significant differences between results reported by optical scanners and the hand count of ballots by election officials across Connecticut. Compared to previous audits, the Coalition noted little, if any, improvement in the attention to detail and in following procedures in the November 2010 audits,

Coalition spokesperson Luther Weeks noted, “In early 2008, after our November 2007 report, the legislature held five public hearings across the state to understand issues with the implementation of the scanners and the audits. Despite the continuing disappointing audit results and our longstanding recommendations, no changes to the law, to improve election integrity, have been made.”

The report concluded:

The November post-election audits still do not inspire confidence because of the continued:

- *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.*

The level of discrepancies reported has increased from the November 2009 post-election audits.

Christine Horrigan, League of Women Voters of Connecticut’s Vice President of Public Issues, stated, “We call on the legislature, Secretary of the State Merrill, and her staff to take action to update our laws to take into account the optical scanners and to strengthen laws and procedures based on our three years experience in observing post-election audits and our recommendations.”

Tom Swan, Executive Director, Connecticut Citizen Action Group, said, “Some officials perform the audits admirably. But others demonstrate inaccuracy and inattention similar to what occurred during the election in Bridgeport, yet audits can be prepared for in advance and do not entail 20-plus hour days in highly stressful conditions.”

Weeks emphasized that “Without credible data, accurate random drawings, and transparent public follow-up, when discrepancies are reported, if there was ever a significant fraud or error it would not be recognized and corrected.”

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