

0 Connecticut Citizen Election Audit

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

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

SOTS Office makes improvements, significant Registrars of Voters flaws continue

Hartford, Connecticut –Today, the Connecticut Citizen Election Audit released a report covering citizen observation and analysis of the August and November 2014 official post-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>