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0  Connecticut Citizen Action Group	0  CTVotersCount.org because Connecticut voters count

For Immediate Release: February 28, 2013

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Coalition Finds Continuing Problems with Election Audit and A New Flaw Post-Election Audit Flawed from the Start by Highly Inaccurate List of Election Districts

Hartford, Connecticut –Today, the Connecticut Citizen Election Audit Coalition released its report on the November 2012 post-election audits.

Coalition spokesperson Luther Weeks noted, “We found significant, unexplained errors, for municipalities across the state, in the list of districts in the random drawing. This random audit was highly flawed from the start because the drawing was highly flawed.”

The report concluded, the official audit results do not inspire confidence because of the continued:

- *Lack of integrity in the random district selection.*
- *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 and the lack of standards for determining need for further investigation of discrepancies.*
- *Weaknesses in the ballot chain-of-custody.*

Cheryl Dunson, President, League of Women Voters of Connecticut, stated, “Two years ago, the Legislature passed a law, at the Secretary of the State’s request, which was intended to fix inaccuracies in the drawing. For whatever reason, errors in the drawing have dramatically increased.

Weeks added, “Some officials follow the audit procedures and do effective work. This year one town investigated discrepancies and found errors to correct in their election procedures – that is one value of performing the audits as intended.

Without adherence to procedures, accurate random drawings, a reliable chain-of-custody, 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.”

This is the eleventh major post-election audit observation report by the Coalition since the adoption of optical scanners and paper ballots statewide. 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 and raw official municipal audit reports are available online at: <http://www.CTElectionAudit.org>