

True Vote Connecticut

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—December 7, 2005

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True Vote Connecticut Challenges Secretary of State's Implementation of Connecticut's HAVA Plan

WHAT: True Vote Connecticut will hold a press conference to raise important questions about the State's administration of its HAVA plan.

WHEN: Thursday, December 8, 10:00 AM

WHERE: Room 2-E, Legislative Office Building, Hartford, CT.

BACKGROUND:

Connecticut is about to squander millions of dollars in HAVA (Help America Vote Act) funds on DRE (touch screen) voting machines that do not meet the HAVA requirements for accessible and auditable voting. The Secretary of the State recently unveiled three finalists of its HAVA selection process in demonstrations held in each of Connecticut's five congressional districts.

The Secretary's actions are guided by the State's HAVA Plan. However, several significant developments have occurred since the plan was formulated in July 2003:

- * The availability of federally-certified, accessible, op-scan technology.
- * The passage of SB55 requiring voter-verified paper records.
- * The passage of HB6669 establishing the Voting Technology Standards Board.
- * The EAC ruling requiring that lever machines must be replaced by 1/1/2006.
- * The failure of the EAC or the State to develop up-to-date voting machine standards.
- * The delays in the RFP process, making it impossible to meet the 1/1/2006 HAVA deadline.
- * The inadequacies of the three finalists that were shown in recent demos in the state.

None of these were anticipated in the State plan, which is now seriously out of date.

What is to be done? HAVA is very clear about the procedures that must be followed in implementing the State's HAVA plan. True Vote Connecticut will call on Secretary Bysiewicz to take appropriate steps to update the state's HAVA plan before purchasing voting machines.

Connecticut can still bring the HAVA process to completion well in advance of the first election in 2006. But it must be done properly. Details of the TrueVote's recommendations will be provided at the press conference.

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