
From the Office of Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz

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FEDERAL GOVERNMENT BANS USE OF LEVER VOTING MACHINES IN 2006

Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz announced today that the federal government has banned the use of lever voting machines in 2006. She was joined by Attorney General Richard Blumenthal where they discussed a recent federal ruling regarding lever voting machines and explained the possible effects of the ruling on the state government and local municipalities.

The Election Assistance Commission (EAC) recently issued an advisory opinion stating lever voting systems have significant barriers which make compliance with the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) difficult and unlikely.

“We did not know that four months before this deadline that the EAC would make such a stunning decision” said Bysiewicz. “The EAC has had 3 years to act and says this for the first time four months before the deadline”.

She went on to say that “The federal government has forced the states to proceed in implementing the provisions of the Help America Vote Act without significant guidance from the EAC”.

If this advisory opinion is binding, she explained, municipalities must replace ALL of their lever machines for the 2006 election.

The timing of the EAC advisory opinion is critical to Connecticut. HAVA was signed into law in October 2002 and the EAC has just now issued this opinion with less than 4 months to comply. HAVA does not outlaw the use of lever voting machines.

Due to this sudden EAC advisory opinion, Bysiewicz has asked Attorney General Blumenthal to explore and look at remedies available to the State of Connecticut.

Bysiewicz is convening a meeting of chief municipal and election officials and legislative leaders on **Wednesday, September 21st at 10AM** in order to ensure that Connecticut is prepared to comply with the advisory opinion.

“As the Chief Elections Official for the State of Connecticut”, Bysiewicz said, “I will work swiftly and prudently to address this advisory opinion”.

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