

# 0 Connecticut Citizen Election Audit

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

## ***Checks on State Voting Machines Do Not Make the Grade Do Not Provide Confidence in Election System, Says Citizen Audit***

**Hartford** – Audits of the recent presidential primaries are so faulty that exact final vote tallies cannot be verified, says the non-partisan Connecticut Citizen Election Audit. Unless state and local election officials make changes, the same will be true for the November elections.

“State law requires audits to verify the accuracy of optical scanner voting machines as a check for errors and a deterrent to fraud. Local registrars gather officials to manually count paper ballots and compare their totals to the totals found by the scanners”, explains Luther Weeks, Executive Director of Connecticut Citizen Election Audit.

Issues reported by the group were:

- Incomplete or missing official reports of vote counts from town registrars;
- The lack of action on the part of the Secretary of the State’s Office to check that all required reports are submitted and all submitted reports are completed fully;
- Of 169 municipalities required to submit lists of polling places before the election, the Secretary of the State’s Office recorded only 68, with 101 missing;
- Poor security procedures to prohibit ballot tampering;
- Not following procedures intended to ensure “double checking” and "blind counting" rather than having scanner counts as targets while counting manually;

Volunteers for the Citizen Audit invested 41 days observing 35 audit sessions. Their detailed observations were analyzed along with official reports from local registrars and from the Connecticut Secretary of the State's Election Division.

“The public, candidates, and the Secretary of the State should expect local election officials to organize proper audits and produce accurate, complete audit reports. The public and candidates should expect the Secretary of the State’s Office to take the lead in ensuring the audits are complete. Yet, due to a lack of attention to detail and follow-through the audits do not prove or disprove the accuracy of the reported primary results,” Weeks said.

The non-partisan Connecticut Citizen Election Audit has provided volunteer observers and 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>.

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