

0 Connecticut Citizen Election Audit

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Citizens Report: Two Blows to Connecticut Election Audits Leave Them Weaker, Less Credible

HARTFORD The Connecticut Citizen Election Audit has released its report on Connecticut's official audit of the 2016 presidential election.

In spite of growing national concerns about election integrity, election credibility in Connecticut has suffered two devastating blows:

- ▼ The Connecticut General Assembly cut post-election audits in half from 10% to 5% of voting districts, and failed to fix glaring weaknesses in the state's audit law.
- ▼ Shockingly, Connecticut has become the first state to replace verifiable hand-count audits with unverifiable electronic audits. Now the public can't verify audit results.

"It need not be this way. Electronic audits can be manually verified without sacrificing efficiency," said Luther Weeks, Executive Director of Connecticut Citizen Election Audit. "Because audits are conducted by the same officials responsible for conducting elections, audits must be transparent and publicly verifiable," he said.

The Citizen Election Audit also found continuing problems with how municipalities conducted audits. "The Secretary's Office should take the lead in ensuring that audits are complete, credible, and publicly verifiable," Weeks said. "The public, candidates, and Secretary Merrill should expect local election officials to organize audits that produce accurate audit reports," he said.

Electronic audits were conducted for six municipalities, while 22 towns conducted manual audits. Post-election audits are required by law.

The non-partisan Connecticut Citizen Election Audit has provided volunteer observation and 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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