

0 Connecticut Citizen Election Audit

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Watchdogs Without Leashes: Connecticut Citizen Election Audit

Hartford, CT – State-funded watchdog agencies suffer from government budget cuts, but the nonpartisan CT Citizen Election Audit has not been impacted. “As an all-volunteer group, the Citizen Audit will be able to remain active and impartial during the upcoming Presidential election,” says Executive Director Luther Weeks.

Citizen Audit volunteers routinely reveal flaws in the conduct of post-election audits, although the audits are intended to test the accuracy of optical scanner voting machines, instead the reveal flaws in officials’ ability to count votes accurately and fill out forms properly. The group has provided independent reports on state elections since the implementation of optical scan voting in Connecticut in 2007.



Last spring, lawmakers reduced the number of polling places to be audited from 10% to 5%. **“Ironically, the General Assembly has reduced audits at a time of heightened public concern about hacking and fraud. This will reduce the credibility of elections,”** said Weeks, **“so the Citizen Audit's work is even more critical.”**

“The purpose of the Citizen Audit is to increase the integrity and confidence in elections, for the benefit of the voters of Connecticut. Without scores of volunteers spending days objectively observing, auditing, and reporting, the promise of publicly verifiable elections could not be pursued and will never be attained,” he said.

Citizens interested in volunteering for election integrity are encouraged to sign up now for the November 2016 observations, which will begin November 23.

Volunteer signup, past reports, and backup data signup are available online at:

<http://www.CTElectionAudit.org>.

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