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- NEWS RELEASE -

BYSIEWICZ: VOTING AT 12 BRIDGEPORT POLLING PRECINCTS EXTENDED UNTIL 10:00 P.M.

SECRETARY OF THE STATE OBTAINS ORDER FROM HARTFORD SUPERIOR
COURT JUDGE EXTENDING POLLING HOURS DUE TO SHORTAGE OF PAPER
BALLOTS

HARTFORD: Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz this evening announced that voting in Bridgeport has been extended by two hours until 10:00 p.m. at 12 polling places within the city. The extension was ordered by Hartford superior Court Judge Marshall Berger after arguments were brought in favor of the move by the Connecticut Democratic Party and the Malloy for Governor campaign. The Secretary of the State's office and the City of Bridgeport also supported the legal action, after it was revealed that the city did not have enough paper ballots for Election Day. Voting hours at the following polling locations have been extended until 10:00 p.m. (a full copy of the judge's order is attached):

- Beardsley School, 500 Huntington Avenue;
- Read Middle School, 130 Ezra Street;
- Central High School, 1 Lincoln Blvd.;
- John Winthrop School, 85 Eckart St.;
- Hallen School, Division St.;
- Thomas Hooker School, Roger Williams Rd.;
- Black Rock School, 545 Brewster St.;
- John F. Kennedy Campus, 700 Palisade Ave.;
- Blackham School, 425 Thorne St.;
- Park City Magnet School, 1526 Chopsey Hill Rd.;
- City Hall, 45 Lyon Terrace; and
- Longfellow School, 139 Ocean Terrace.

Secretary Bysiewicz issued the following statement clarifying the matter, and is urging all registered voters in Bridgeport who experienced problems at the polls to get to their polling places to cast ballots.

“We have had a strong turnout in today’s general elections, especially in the city of Bridgeport. Early this afternoon, we started receiving reports that Bridgeport was running out of ballots. The decision on how many ballots to have printed is entirely a local decision made by both Republican and Democratic Registrars of Voters based on the anticipated turnout for the election.

There are nearly 70,000 registered voters in the city of Bridgeport. We learned from the registrars of voters in Bridgeport this afternoon that only 21,000 ballots were ordered for the city of Bridgeport for today’s election. We have always recommended to the Registrars of Voters to order enough ballots to cover every single registered voter within their jurisdiction if there was a 100% turnout.

We have also told registrars of voters that if they do not have enough ballots, the ballots can be photocopied and filled out with pen. The ballots are then to be placed in the ballot box in a separate bin and hand counted after the machine totals are tabulated. Since we have a paper ballot system, every vote can still be counted even if polling places run low on ballots. Voters are never ever to be turned away and disenfranchised in such a situation. These steps were taken in Bridgeport, but the copies could not keep pace with the number of voters seeking ballots.

Replacement ballots were ordered and printed for Bridgeport this afternoon and delivered earlier this evening. They have been in use by the optical scan machines since their arrival in Bridgeport.

We asked for the court action based on affidavits from some voters who claimed that they waited in line to vote and then went home because they never received their ballot. We urge those voters to get to the polls if their polling place was affected and cast their ballot before 10:00 p.m. Due to the confusion on this issue we are grateful that Judge Berger has taken this extraordinary measure to extend voting hours at these twelve polling places so every vote is counted and no one will be disenfranchised.”