



March 5, 2008

Susan Bysiewicz
SECRETARY OF THE STATE
CONNECTICUT

Ms. Diane Wallace
Chief Information Officer
State of Connecticut
Department of Information Technology
101 East River Drive
East Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Ms. Wallace:

I was surprised by the comments in your letter, in particular, its references to undermining mutual trust, casting blame, and a history of system problems. Since my letter to the Governor, I understand from my staff that they have had two very productive meetings with DOIT staff. During those meetings, there has been a focus on identifying issues and developing a project plan to address them. I understand that they have targeted August for completion and we have offered our vendor, PCC Technology Group, to handle tasks, as needed. There has been no finger-pointing; rather, there seems to be a sincere commitment to get the job done.

As we prepare for this historic election – an election that by all accounts will see record voter registration and turnout - my request to the Governor was simple. We need leadership at the highest levels to make this project a priority. As I mentioned, I will make my staff and our vendor available, as needed, to assist, but as the lead agency for IT efforts in the state, DOIT does ultimately control what gets done and the speed with which progress can be made, especially as it relates to site access and tasks traditionally handled by DOIT staff, rather than consultants. No one has suggested that DOIT staff have failed to give time to this effort, but as you correctly point out DOIT supports many applications on more than 315 servers for various state agencies. We need assurance that our agency is at the top of the list for a comprehensive solution, given what Registrars of Voters face approaching November. As you know, we can use HAVA funds to cover needed costs.


Second, our respective staffs need to develop consensus quickly around what the issues are (both application and hardware) and a concrete action plan with dates detailing how we will fix any problems. In order to have the system ready to go in August, we need that plan to be completed by March 21, 2008. Just as our agency is one of your customers, we must produce a concrete action plan that is transparent to the real customers we both serve – the cities and towns of the state through their Registrars of Voters.

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I agree with your assessment that the time has come for a comprehensive review of the existing system and for re-vamping it in whatever way is necessary. A band-aid approach is certainly not the answer. If we act decisively and proactively now, we can take advantage of this window of opportunity to fulfill the promise of this system. A centralized voter registration database is a wonderful tool for Registrars and a great safeguard in preventing voter fraud. I know that our staffs can work together, and with leadership at the highest levels, I know that we can develop and publish a plan of action to ensure that we achieve results demanded and deserved by those we serve. I look forward to achieving this goal.

Sincerely,



Susan
Susan Bysiewicz
Secretary of the State of Connecticut

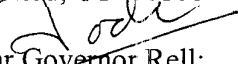
Cc: Governor M. Jodi Rell



Susan Bysiewicz
SECRETARY OF THE STATE
CONNECTICUT

March 5, 2008

The Honorable M. Jodi Rell
Governor
State of Connecticut
Office of the Governor
State Capitol
210 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

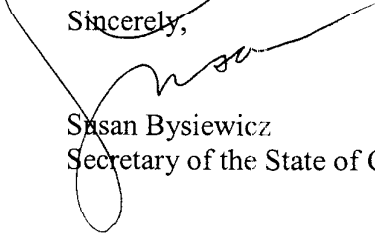

Dear Governor Rell:

I hope that this letter finds you well. I would love the opportunity to meet with you to discuss \$1.5 million in additional funding that the State of Connecticut will be receiving pursuant to the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). We will be convening our statewide planning committee later this month to discuss how such funds can best be allocated. We look forward to participation from your office.

I'd also like to apprise you of our efforts to prepare for the upcoming Presidential election. As you know, we can expect record voter registration leading up to November and record voter turnout across the state. The move of our Presidential Preference Primary from March to February gave Connecticut voters in real voice in selecting nominees for both major parties and we can expect the enthusiasm to continue.

I'll be in touch to find a convenient time. Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,


Susan Bysiewicz
Secretary of the State of Connecticut