

Feb. 9, 2008

Dear Mr. Garjunktel:

Enclosed is a portion of an Hour article.

I know why my husband did not fill in the bubble next to the candidate's name. I almost did the same thing.

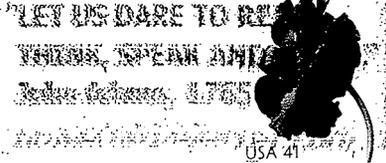
The bubble is so light tan on tan paper that it can hardly be seen. I suggest that the bubble be in BLACK ink which can easily be seen by old eyes. Have an older person



Mr. James M. Hegedus, Jr.
16 Crockett St.
Norwalk CT 06853-1611

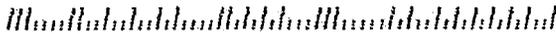
SOUTHERN CT 064

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Town Clerk
Andy Garjunktel
125 East Ave.
Norwalk, CT 06856

06853-1611



Voting

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dence of tampering.

In nearly every case, team leader Alexander Shvartsman reported the problems detected by the UConn team would not have compromised election results. He suggested that better training of volunteer voting personnel, and clearer instructions, would eliminate nearly all problems encountered.

Upon release of the audit, Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz outlined ways for the legislature to increase voter privacy, including specifics on placement of voting booths and voting tabulators and an option for voters to place their ballots in a "privacy sleeve" before feeding their ballot into the scanning machine.

Caruso also raised concerns about voter privacy, machine discrepancies, voter and poll worker education; he said that ballots should be inventoried.

"What I find most troubling is that there is nothing statutorily requiring the secretary of state to count the number of ballots distributed to each municipality and check the number of votes cast against how many ballots are left over at the end of the night," he said.

Norwalk began using the new machines to count absentee ballots in the 2004 presidential election, before they were replaced by mechanical lever-style machines statewide in November, said Town Clerk Andy Garfunkel. He gave the machines a good review and said most voters find them easy to use.

"The concern is that because there's a computer, someone can hack into it, but with a paper trail, if someone were to manipulate it, you could always open the back and count the ballots," Garfunkel said.

Of the 2007 election votes audited in Norwalk, some results were two or three votes off, Garfunkel said, because the machines could not read ballots that were not marked properly — instead of filling in the bubble next to a candidate's name, voters circled the candidate instead.

Even in the case of such errors, it was easy to tell the voter's intent, he said.

"Anyone under the age of 40 who has taken the SAT or a computerized test knows how to fill in a bubble," Garfunkel said.

Caruso, who has a request to overturn the Sept. 11 Democratic mayoral primary in Bridgeport pending in state Supreme Court, said his committee's work to improve the optical voting process is not sour grapes.

Caruso, who lost primary to Bill Finch by 270 votes, has claimed there were numerous voting irregularities, violations of election laws, and a major shortage of poll workers that should not be ignored.

The committee has been emphasizing campaign finance enforcement and election oversight as part of the Help America Vote Act, which mandates that safeguards are in place, he said.

"Regardless of whether I had the Democratic primary issue or not, these hearings would have taken place," Caruso said.

*wherever my museum
and I like the new
machines.*

*Sincerely,
Eleanor M.
Negedus*