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PRESS RELEASE

Secretary of State Jim Condos Announces Completion of Successful Election Audit

Montpelier, VT – Secretary of State Jim Condos announced the completion of the 2014 General Election audit, which took place late Wednesday morning and lasted four hours. The audit represented a 50% increase in towns over previous years.

“I am pleased to report the successful completion of the 2014 election audit; the audit is a crucial part of the elections process and shows us that the checks and balances that we have in place are working as they should be,” stated Secretary Condos.

This is the first year that all races for each town were audited. The 2014 General Election audit results are viewable on the Secretary of State’s website: <https://www.sec.state.vt.us/elections/election-results.aspx>

This year, the towns randomly selected to participate in the audit were East Montpelier, Fayston, Manchester, Saint Johnsbury, Westminster, and Wolcott. The first three towns were chosen completely randomly using a number system; the next three were chosen randomly with geographical and population numbers taken into account.

This is the first time Vermont has used scanning technology for its election audit.

“The Secretary of State’s Office began auditing election results in 2006. However, through 2012 the audits were all conducted by hand. This is the first time we have used new scanning technology to conduct the audit. We chose to pilot the technology this election because it is more accurate than a hand audit and for its many additional benefits including: the ability to audit a larger number of tabulators and votes in a shorter period of time, the ability to audit every race from each town rather than only a race or two (as has been done in the past), the ability to view scanned images of the processed ballots to understand why a certain vote was counted in a certain way, and a file with all of the scanned ballot images that we can maintain.”

Condos further stated, “Voting is one of the most important responsibilities and privileges that comes with being a citizen. Ensuring the election process is both honest and accurate is as important as voting itself.”

