TO**:** Anoka County Board of Commissioners and Staff

FROM: Anoka County Election Integrity Team (ACEIT)

DATE: March 14, 2023

SUBJECT**:** A Report on Voter Registration/Roll Maintenance by Sue Peterson/presenter Nancy Powell

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**Introduction:**

* Votes were cast in Anoka County contrary to MN statutes AND Voter Registration Rolls did not prevent these errors.
* We are requesting answers to how these Voting Registration data record issues can occur and ask for work product to be provided to show how statutes are being acted upon to actively and accurately manage Anoka County voter registration.

**Analysis:**

1. Accurate, up-to-date voter registration rolls are the foundation to the election process. Keeping voter registration rolls accurate & current protects against fraud & voter/candidate disenfranchisement by ensuring only eligible electors can cast a ballot in their precinct.
2. *An eligible voter may vote only in the precinct in which the voter maintains residence*. MS 201.016, Subd. 1.
3. The SVRS (State Voter Registration System) is the centralized statewide database of registered voters. It verifies identifying information in voter registration applications against other databases. SVRS is required by HAVA and is used for election rosters.
4. *The Secretary of State (SOS) is responsible for defining, maintaining, and administering the centralized system*. MS 201.21. Obtains monthly COA reports and transmits information on the changed address to the county auditor. MS 201.13 Subd.3.
5. *The county auditor shall be chief registrar of voters and the chief custodian of the official registration records in each county*. MS 201.21. County auditors and staff process voter information on registration applications and maintain voter records through the SVRS.
6. Data from at least six different sources continuously update the SVRS to improve accuracy of voter rolls, e.g.:
7. USPS NCOA (National Change of Address):

A permanent address change list. New COA data is updated at least monthly into SVRS, (exception: 47 days before State Primary or General Elections).

1. ERIC (Electronic Registration Information Center):

ERIC has a contractual agreement with the MNSOS. ERIC’s goal is to improve the accuracy of the state voter registration data by maintaining voter registration lists & providing at least monthly reports to the State. ERIC receives from the State active & inactive voter files and motor licensing or identification from the motor vehicle database; EXCLUDING any record that indicates the individual is a non-citizen of the United States.

1. Our recent canvassing efforts using COA dates beginning in 2018 are showing electors are still voting using their old address in their old precinct. Some of these electors’ new addresses include PO Boxes, out-of-state & business addresses.

**Conclusions/Requests:**

* Although there are many methods the State/County indicate are used to ensure voter roll accuracy, it is apparent the methods and/or technology are simply not thorough. This is the same as 5\* other states determined as well – as they pulled their contract with ERIC, which is not performing as marketed. \*Louisiana, Alabama, Missouri, Florida, West Virginia.
* We request answers to the following from our Anoka County Commissioners by 04/30/2023:
  + How are electors voting in their old precincts years after they filed a National Change of Address?
  + Isn’t errant and outdated data what the SVRS is supposed to prevent?
  + Isn’t the process to validate voters at the point of registration supposed to prevent this illegal activity as well?
* We The Citizens of Anoka County request from our Anoka County Commissioners by 04/30/2023:
  + A list of standard practices, including frequency, performed by County Auditor to maintain Voter Registration.
  + The standard operating procedures supporting the standard practices indicated above.
  + The name of the person(s) accountable for the duties of the County Auditor as indicated in MN Statute 201.21.

**Links/Resources:**

* <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/201.016>. Residence Requirements for Voting; Violations; Penalty.
* <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/201.13>.Subd.3. Use of change of address system.
* <https://lcc.mn.gov/ertf/meetings/100913/SVRSRosterTaskForce10092013.pdf>. Electronic Roster Task Force/SVRS
* <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/media/1611/coa-fast-facts-powerpoint.pdf>. COA Fast Facts
* <https://ericstates.org>. Electronic Registration Information Center
* <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/201.021> Permanent Registration System
* <https://www.auditor.leg.state.mn.us/ped/pedrep/voterreg.pdf> Voter Registration 2018 Evaluation Report