

November 7, 2023 Elections and Voting Process Risk Reduction

ACEIT REPORT

TO: ACEIT- Anoka County Election Integrity Team

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TITLE: November 7, 2023 Elections and Voting Process Risk Reduction

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INTRODUCTION

- The upcoming November 7 elections are all down ballot races.
November 7, 2023 Election (11 School Board Elections, 2 Mayor, 4 Council Members)
 - ISD11 Anoka-Hennepin School District Election (Districts 1, 2, and 5)
 - ISD14 Fridley School District Election (3 At-Large Seats)
 - ISD16 School District Election (3 At-Large Seats, 1 Special Election Seat)
 - ISD 13 Special Election (1 At-Large Seat)
 - City Of Circle Pines (Mayor, 2 Council Member Seats)
 - City of Lino Lakes (Mayor, 2 Council Member Seats)

ANALYSIS

- The SVRS/COA process is broken. Beyond the 9 voters who moved yet voted in their old precinct (previously reported) there over **400 additional** likely instances of similar cases of address changes whose changes have not been made to the rolls. State law requires that the Anoka County Auditor notify all of these people in writing of their errors and that any additional violation is a misdemeanor. **There are more than 800** apartment dwellers whose apartment numbers are not in their address records, thus not legally identifying their place of residence and invalidating their registration (*Data available from ACEIT*).
- **Process Risk = Degree of Severity (S) * Probability of Occurrence (O) * Ability to Detect (D)**. There is "ZERO" ability to detect error's due to not having a State mandated post-election-review (PER) process for down ballot races. This exposes the Nov 7, 2023 down ballot elections to increased risk with no transparency to validate the counting and tabulating process.
- The COA (*SVRS+ERIC*) process calls for a once per month minimum update. This is obviously not happening correctly. The process should be trouble shot and permanent corrective actions taken.

CONCLUSION

1. The current registered data base needs to be audited by the County Auditor and the SVRS manually updated per the SVRS Procedure.
2. The PER official may conduct a post-election review of the votes cast for additional offices as well. *M.S. 206.89, subd. 2a; 206.89, subd. 3*

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Fix the voter rolls. Prosecute fraudulent votes to the maximum. Take corrective action to permanently fix the process.
2. The county can and should perform Post Election Review's (PER) across all races in the Nov 7 2023 Anoka Elections to increase public transparency.
3. The auditor should Publicly Validate that all ballot packets have equivalent candidate rotation for contested races to prevent bias. This includes early voting by mail, early in person, and precinct day of.

ATTACHMENT'S

1. Elections, COA, NCOA process, County Auditor COA responsibilities.

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SEP 22	Vote by mail or in person September 22 through November 6
OCT 17	Register in advance by October 17 to save time on Election Day
NOV 7	Election Day

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In-Person Absentee Voting Locations

In-Person absentee voting begins Friday, September 22

To confirm which Election you are eligible to vote in please check the Minnesota Secretary of States website linked here.

Anoka County Government Center

2100 3rd Ave, Suite 160

Anoka, MN 55303

- 763-324-1300

Website: Anoka County

Circle Pines City Hall

200 Civic Heights Circle

Circle Pines, MN 55014

- 763-784-5898

Website: City of Circle Pines

Lino Lakes City Hall

600 Town Center Pkwy

Lino Lakes, MN 55014

- 651-982-2400

Website: City of Lino Lakes

Times

*Times listed are for the Anoka County Government Center Location. Hours may vary at other locations.

- 8:00 to 4:30 pm Monday thru Friday unless otherwise noted.
- 10:00 am to 3:00 pm on the Saturday before election day
- 8:00 am until 5:00 pm on Monday the day before election day

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Relevant POST-ELECTION REVIEW (PER) notes:

- The post-election equipment review or post-election review (PER) is a manual recount (or “audit”) of the paper ballots of randomly-selected precincts for specific offices following each state general election. The review compares the hand count of the ballots with the results from the electronic voting system to determine if the counting accuracy of the voting system meets a defined standard (see section 6.0).
- The PER is mandated for the offices of President or Governor, United States Senator, and United States Representative.
- The PER official may conduct a post-election review of the votes cast for additional offices as well. *M.S. 206.89, subd. 2a; 206.89, subd. 3*
- For the PER, at least four precincts must be selected within each congressional district statewide.
- The ballots to be reviewed for a precinct must include both the ballots counted at the precinct’s polling place and the absentee ballots counted centrally by a ballot board for that precinct.
- The results of the post-election review cannot differ from the electronic voting system count by more than the following thresholds:
 - no more than two votes in a precinct where fewer than 1,200 voters cast ballots ($\leq .1667\%$)
 - no more than three votes in a precinct where between 1,200 and 1,599 voters cast ballots ($\leq .1876\%$)
 - no more than four votes in a precinct where between 1,600 and 1,999 voters cast ballots ($\leq .2001\%$)
 - no more than five votes in a precinct where 2,000 or more voters cast ballots. ($\leq .2500\%$)
- There are additional levels required if failure occurs in the first PER. See M.S. 206.89, subd. 4,

COA= SVRS +ERIC

COA “Change of Address”



ERIC “Electronic Registration Information Center”

The Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) is an organization that assists member states in keeping their voter rolls accurate and up-to-date. Member states submit both Voter Registration and Driver’s License (from DPS) data to ERIC. (The data does not originate from the Center.) ERIC uses a sophisticated matching program to provide information back to each state. Data includes in-state and out-of-state updates to voter records. (A voter has changed their driver’s license or updated their voter registration in Minnesota or another participating state.)

Minnesota Statutes 201.13 was updated in 2014 to permit the Office of the Secretary of State and County Auditors to use ERIC data to update voter records.

On a monthly basis, the OSS sends Voter Registration and Driver’s License data to ERIC. ERIC then returns the results of the matching program, indicating which voter records have updated address information.

NCOA and ERIC data, (known together as COA or ‘change of address’) is loaded into SVRS through the COA Express queue and Pending Applications>>Source COA Queued for Processing.

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Manual COA: Processing Schedule

When a non-forwardable election mailing is returned for a voter with a new permanent forwarding address, and there is an election scheduled in the voter's precinct within the next 47 days, the Manual COA update should be processed within 10 days of either receiving a returned mailing or receiving a copy of a returned mailing from another county.

If there is not an election scheduled in the voter's precinct within the next 47 days, **the County Auditor** may wait for the next data load to be loaded to SVRS before processing the Manual COA update. (There is a chance that an electronic COA record may be loaded, eliminating the need for processing the Manual COA update.)

After either an in-state or out-of-state manual update, the voter is sent one of the two COA notices. The notice depends on whether the record was updated using in-state or out-of-state COA data. The voter is then given 21 days to inform the County Auditor if their voter record should not have been updated. The only exception is when the status of the voter record is Challenged-Felony, Challenged-Guardianship, Challenged-Citizenship, Challenged-Name Change. Voter records with one of these statuses are updated through the COA process, but they are not sent COA notices.

COA NOTICE IN STATE (GREEN STRIPE)

FRONT

Anoka County Voter Registration ANOKA COUNTY ELECTIONS 325 E MAIN ST SUITE W130 ANOKA, MN 55303-5031 Phone No: 763-323-5275 Website: www.anokacounty.us	Voter I.D. #: 0004828676 Deadline: 04/06/2015	Pre-Sorted First Class Mail U.S. Postage Paid Permit No. 4517 St. Paul, MN
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If you should not be registered at the address to which this postcard was mailed, contact the county voter registration office listed above by 04/06/2015.
Your Precinct: COLUMBIA HEIGHTS P-6

Your polling place for voting (School District Elections may differ):
HIGHLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (P6)
1500 49TH AVE NE
COLUMBIA HEIGHTS, MN 55421
E OF CENTRAL ON 49TH

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Congressional District 5	Senate District 41	House District 41B	NICOLE BEAUBIEN 2205 ARGONNE DR NE COLUMBIA HEIGHTS, MN 55421
Commissioner District 04	School District 13	Soil & Water District 4003	

BACK



You Are Now Registered to Vote at Your New Address.

If You Do **Not** Reside at the Address Listed on the Reverse Side of this Card:

- You must contact your county voter registration office to correct your voter registration by the date listed (see reverse).
- You must be registered at the address at which you reside.
- You cannot be registered using an address at which you only receive mail.

More Information:

- Your new polling place is listed on the reverse side.
- Find helpful voter tools and resources at www.mnvotes.org.
- Questions? Call the office of the Minnesota Secretary of State at 1-877-600-8683 or use Relay Service at 711.

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In cases when there is an upcoming election, these records must be processed before rosters are printed to ensure voters are registered at the most current address. No new COA data is loaded into SVRS within 47 days before a State Primary or State General Election.



MANUAL NCOA IN STATE

M.S. 201.12 requires County Auditors to manually update a voter record when a nonforwardable election mailing sent to the voter is returned as undeliverable with a permanent forwarding address. When an in state permanent forwarding address is listed, the voter record must be manually updated to the new address on the returned mailing. When the permanent forwarding address is located in a different county within Minnesota, this requires coordination between counties. After the voter record is updated, the voter is sent a notice and given 21 days to inform the auditor if their record was updated in error.

Records in the COA Express queue and Pending Applications >> Source COA should be processed before performing any manual NCOA updates. If there is an election scheduled in the voter's precinct within 47 days, manual NCOA updates should be processed within 10 days of either receiving a returned mailing or receiving a copy of a returned mailing from another county. If there is not a scheduled election in the voter's precinct within 47 days, it is possible to wait until the next batch of COA data is loaded to SVRS before processing the manual NCOA update.



MANUAL NCOA OUT OF STATE

M.S. 201.12 requires County Auditors to manually update a voter record when a nonforwardable election mailing sent to the voter is returned as undeliverable with a permanent forwarding address. When an out of state permanent forwarding address is listed, the auditor must manually schedule the voter record for inactivation. The voter is sent a notice (unless the status on the voter record is Challenged-Felony, Guardianship, Name Change or Citizenship) and given 21 days to inform the auditor if their voter record should not have been scheduled for inactivation.

Records in the COA Express queue and Pending Applications >> Source COA should be processed before performing any manual NCOA updates. If there is an election scheduled in the voter's precinct within 47 days, manual out of state NCOA correction should be processed within 10 days of either receiving a returned mailing. If there is not a scheduled election in the voter's precinct within 47 days, it is possible to wait until the next batch of COA data is loaded to SVRS before processing the manual out of state NCOA.

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