MEMORANDUM

TO: Anoka County Board of Commissioners and Staff

FROM Anoka County Election Integrity Team (ACEIT)

DATE: June 13, 2023

SUBJECT: Making elections secure, transparent and accurate.

PRESENTER: Sue Peterson

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Introduction

Mark Cook’s recommendations to help ensure our elections are secure, transparent and accurate.

Analysis

Mistrust in the election process goes back decades and is non-partisan. Technological advances have increased its vulnerability through its many access points. The more we stray from local oversight, the less knowledge and control we possess of how our ballots are handled.

Question

How can Anoka County assure our elections are secure, transparent & accurate?

* Decentralize the process to the precinct level.
* Eliminate voting machines. Use ADA compliant devices only capable of printing a completed ballot.
* Eliminate ePollbook usage. Use paper rosters instead of ePollbooks. (or use paper rosters in tandem with ePollbooks when checking in voters. Compare number of voters on each at close of polls.)
* Print ballots on counterfeit-resistant paper.
* Tabulate ballots by hand counting in precincts. Use cameras during this process.
* Clean up & secure voter rolls. Ensure they contain only qualified eligible citizens.
* On a daily basis, download and check the voter registration database & ePoll information.
* Who is being audited should be random, selected at time of audit (not announced beforehand.)
* Fix signature verification. Using paper rosters will help with this.
* All ballots remain secure with live video.
* Did I mention removing voting machines & ePollbooks?

You can see where these points relate more easily if you refer to Gary’s chart he presented in the last meeting,

Attachments

1. Mark Cook’s Election Integrity Forum article: <http://richpaces.com/election-integrity/>

2. US election integrity depends on security-challenged firms: <https://apnews.com/article/north-america-ne-state-wire-us-news-ap-top-news-elections-f6876669cb6b4e4c9850844f8e015b4c>

3. Info on 1.8 million Chicago voters exposed on Amazon server: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/2017/08/18/information-1-8-million-chicago-voters-exposed/579656001/>

4. Florida County Database Mistake: ELection Official’s Logins Among Exposed Data: <https://www.upguard.com/breaches/martin-county-florida-election-officials-passwords>. (How election data can innocently become insecure.)

Note: This Memorandum and Report will be emailed to Board Members, County

Administrator, PRT Division Head and Elections Manager.