MEMORANDUM

TO: Anoka County Board of Commissioners and Staff

FROM Anoka County Election Integrity Team (ACEIT)

DATE: October11, 2023

SUBJECT: Implications of ES&S Foldline Issues

PRESENTER: Channing Stowell

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Introduction

I am Channing Stowell of East Bethel. I am vice Chairman of SD31 BPOU

**Analysis**

The Mailed Ballot Fold Line issue is widely recognized as a problem for ES&S machines The ES&S Manual for California devotes an entire chapter – more than ten pages to procedures to attempt to handle this issue. <https://votingsystems.cdn.sos.ca.gov/vendors/ess/evs5210/ess5210-use-proc.pdf>

Chart 1 shows the outline for this chapter. Clearly, ES&S recognizes the issue.

Both the pre-election Performance and Accuracy Testing (PAT) and for the Post Election Review (PER) audits must be altered to assure the machines have accurately reported the mail in ballot voter’s intent.

Initial recommendations include:

for both the Primary and General Election:

1. Sample Ballots for all precincts, with one pre folded, as if you were to mail it out to an absentee voter for each precinct.
2. Test Desks for all precincts to ensure each oval has a unique number assigned to it, and that it is not repeated on the ballot.  Review number of folded ballots for each precinct test batch, to ensure that at least 20% or 40 ballots, whichever is greater, of the test desk had standard mailing folds that were evaluated as part of the test for each precinct.
3. Cast Vote Records for test decks.
4. Ballot Images for tests decks, so we can review how folds are interpreted, and verify that they have no impact.
5. Log files for tests, to ensure the count of ballots is matching.
6. The tabulator printed reports before (the zero reports), during and after the tests are run

For the PAT, for each unique precinct/ballot format a machine folded test deck must be run to compare to the current unfolded test deck. For PER, the reviewers must rigorously inspect all mailed in ballots to be sure voter intent was accurately interpreted by the machine.

Attachments

See Attached

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

Administrator, PRT Division Head and Elections Manager.