

The background of the slide is a stylized American flag. The stars and stripes are rendered with a soft, bokeh-like effect, giving it a dreamy and patriotic appearance. The colors are vibrant, with deep blues, bright reds, and crisp whites.

Achieving Home-Grown Elections in Anoka County

Presented by

**Anoka County
Election Integrity Team (ACEIT)**

To

City of Ham Lake

March 4, 2024



More than 20 highly dedicated individuals meeting weekly since August 2022; researching and identifying election reform strategies for Anoka County

PRESENTERS PROFILES

- Derek Lind—Ramsey, financial analyst
- Brenda Miller—Columbus, election judge, occ. therapist, homeschooler
- Davin Tormanen—Vadnais Heights, 25 yrs. electronics technology
- Pam Weber—Andover, election judge, physical therapist
- Robert Kirchner—Coon Rapids, 40 yrs., local gov't. admin.
- Lori Mahowald—Coon Rapids, election judge, operations/project mgmt.

Other Contributors

- Paul Berndt—Coon Rapids, manufacturing engineering
- Lisa Henrickson—Linwood Twp., election judge, 37 yrs. state of MN
- Gary Kemmetmueller—Coon Rapids, electronics technology
- Richard Klabecek—Oak Grove, applied math/manufacturing engineer
- Jonathan Liebsch—Ham Lake, election judge, software developer
- Joe Richardson—Andover, election judge, power/energy industry
- Sue Peterson—Ham Lake, election judge
- Channing Stowell—East Bethel, M.I.T. Sloan School trained data scientist
- Jeannie Erickson—Coon Rapids, election judge, 30 yrs. admin assistant
- Troy Cooper—Ramsey, financial services IT mgt & small business owner

Introduction

The purpose of elections to is accurately measure the will of the people.



- Elections are complex and outsourced; they don't make sense any more
- >60% of voters no longer trust our elections

- We need to return to a simple, locally controlled and transparent process
- We will present several actions that you can take to control your elections





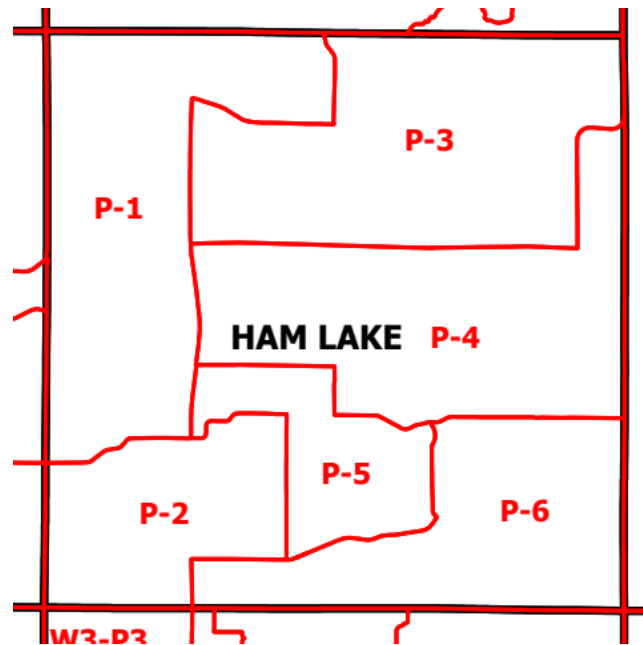
ELECTION INTEGRITY GOALS

1. Small Voting Precincts
2. Secured Election Judge Data
- 3. Verified Registered Voters**
4. Validated Paper Ballots
- 5. Paper Poll Books**
- 6. Hand-Counted Paper Ballots**

ELECTION INTEGRITY GOAL #1

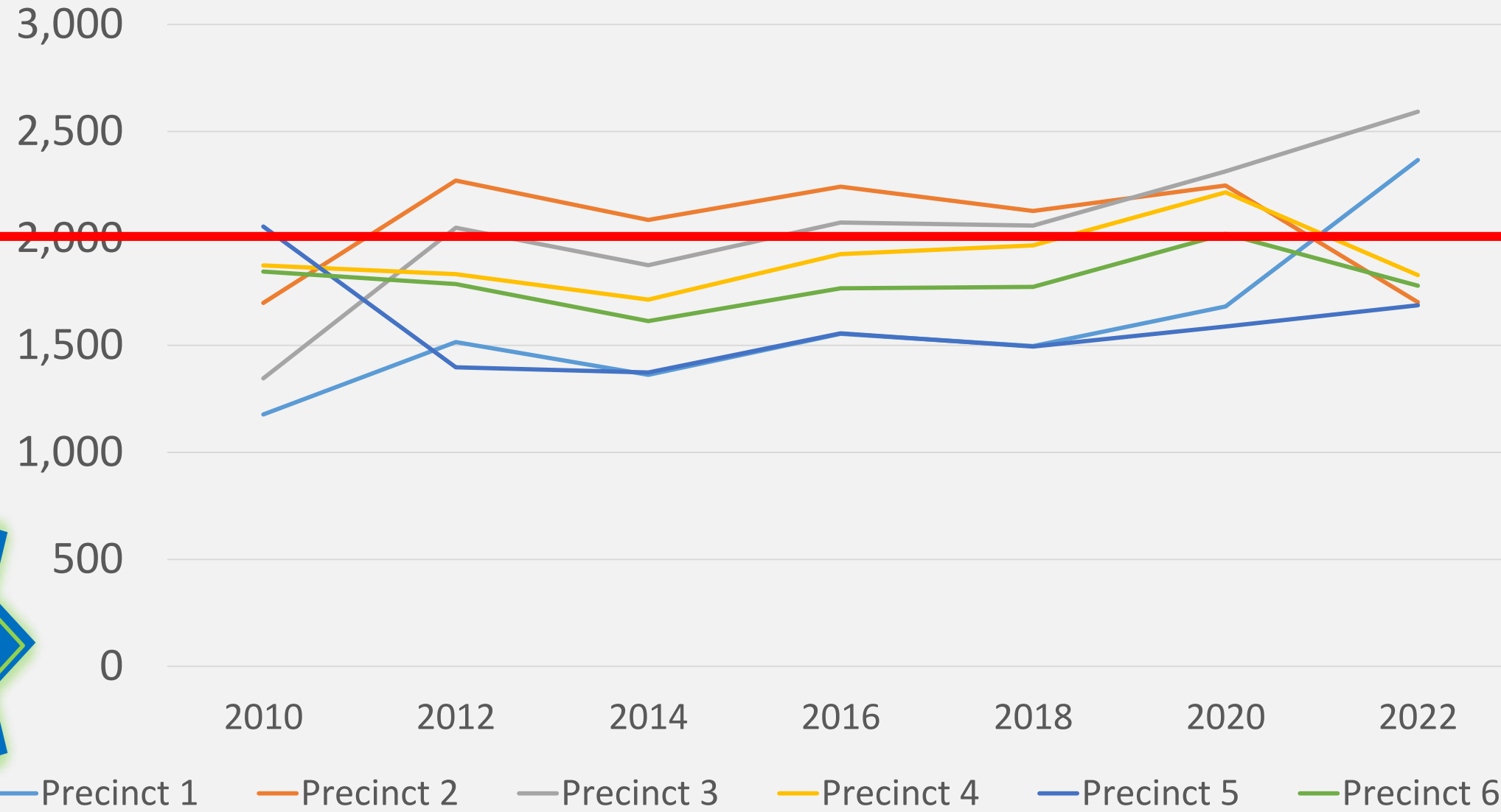
Small Voting Precincts

- Through Local Management



CITY OF HAM LAKE, REGISTERED VOTERS PER PRECINCT: 2010-2022

MN SOS
Suggested
Maximum of
2,000
Registered
Voters Per
Precinct



Note: It might be time to add a precinct and rebalance registered voters

Summary | Recommendations

- Cities are authorized to determine precinct size
- Precincts with <2,000 registered voters are more manageable



- ADOPT A RESOLUTION to limit voting districts to 2,000 registered voters or less

ELECTION INTEGRITY GOAL #2

Secured Election Judge Data

- Through Local Management & Storage

Data Security Risks in Outsourcing

Outsourcing = Sharing = Loss of Control

Unlimited Risk

- Data shared with Modus/InTech, an NGO (Non-Governmental Organization), and/or beyond
- Data transferred electronically (online) to others is hackable
- Data shared/stored in the Cloud and/or on others' PCs or on devices is hackable
- Encryption doesn't eliminate risk; it is hacked every day
- 3rd Party/Contractors that transfer data know the data is hackable and, thus, infuse language in their contracts that hold them harmless because they know this truth
- Data sent/shared cannot be controlled and therefore poses a security threat to the Election Judge

Inhouse on Local PC

Zero to Limited Risk

- Save/store file(s) only on a dedicated local PC, not in the AC files in the Cloud
- Remove any ability to access the Internet through this dedicated PC
- Prevent data from capability to send anywhere – not even within the office
- Lock the PC whenever not in use

Summary | Recommendations

- There are data security risks in outsourcing
- Government has an obligation to protect personal information
- Many questions with InTech contract
- Good News: Internal management is a viable solution



❑ ADOPT A RESOLUTION

requesting Anoka County secure election judge personal data by ending the contract with InTech Software Solutions, Inc. and returning to local management and storage

ELECTION INTEGRITY GOAL #3

Verified Registered Voters

- Through Local Management

Registered Voter List Accountability

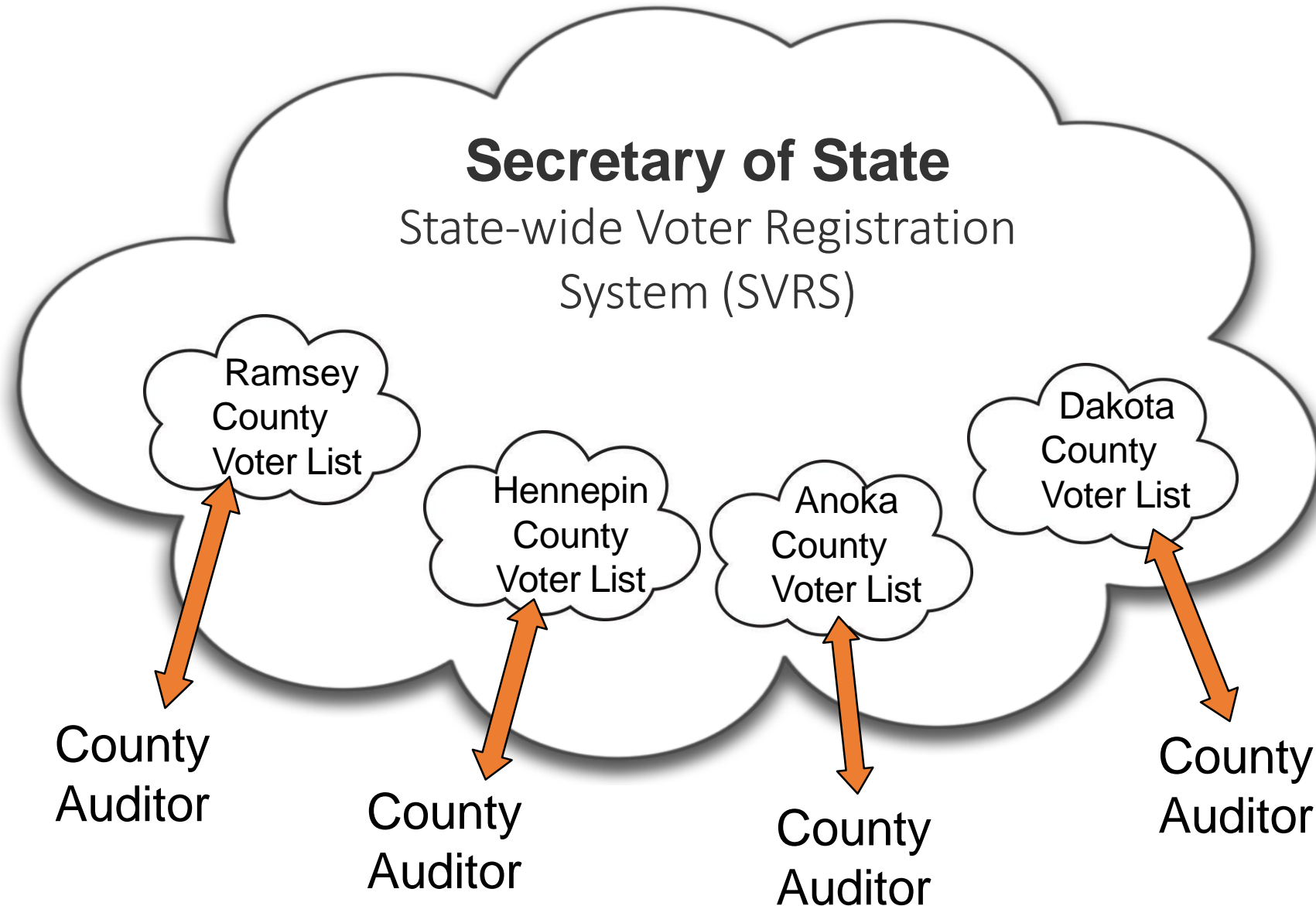
MN Statute 201.091

REGISTERED VOTER LISTS; REPORTS; REGISTRATION PLACES

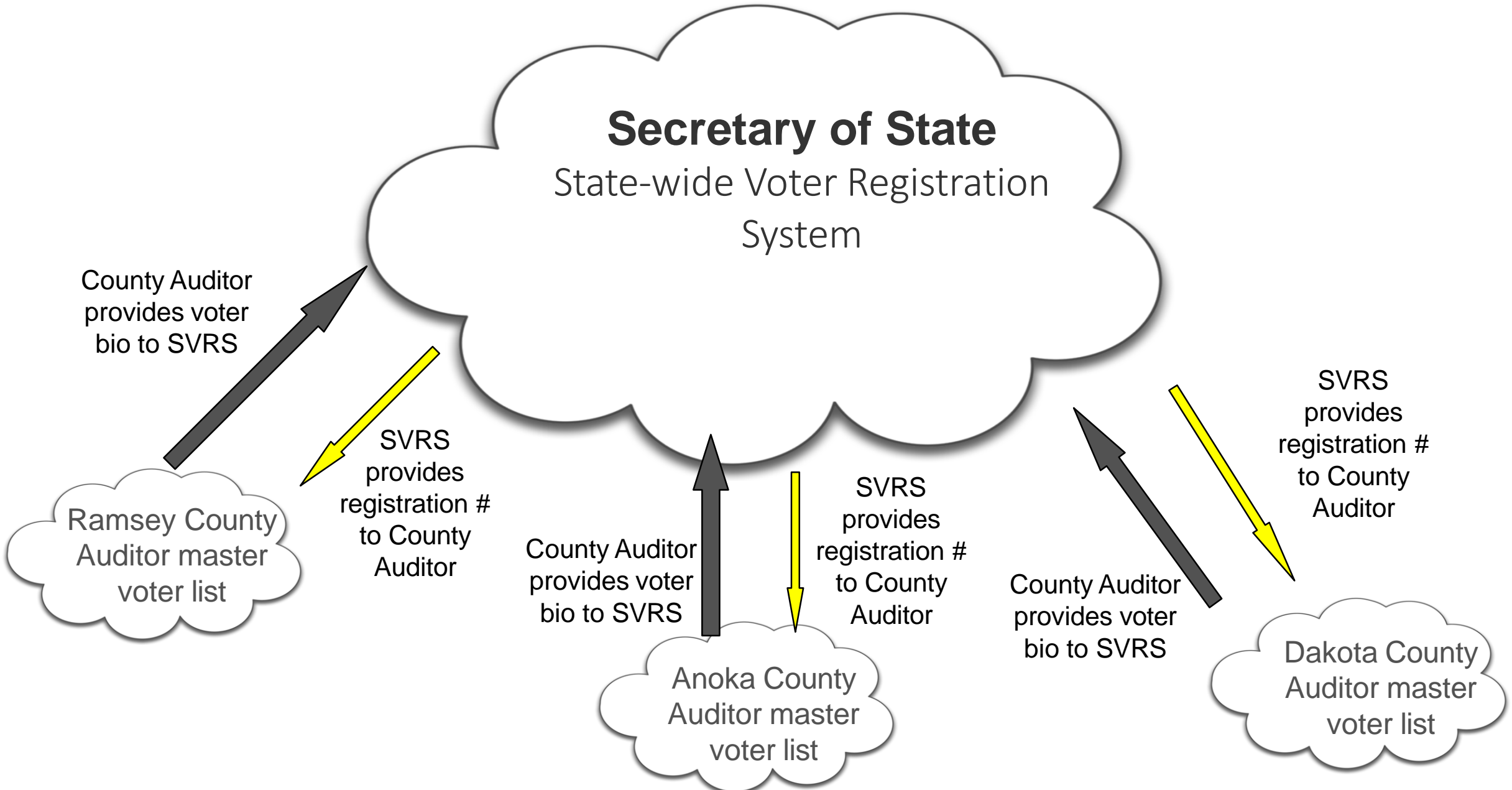
§ Subdivision 1. Master list.

Each county auditor shall prepare and maintain a current list of registered voters in each precinct in the county which is known as the master list. The master list must be created by entering each completed voter registration application received by the county.

Architecture of Current Registered Voter List



Architecture of County Auditor Master Voter List



Summary | Recommendations

- City election clerks must encourage the County Auditor to take an active leading role in maintaining a county master voter list administered by the county
- City election personnel must double-check the county's list of registered voters in their city to validate the list is correct
- County Auditors must properly validate all new voter registrations
- County Auditors shall use forensic database cross-referencing tools such as Omega4America while validating voters and maintaining master voter list
- City ballot boards checking mail-in ballots must use a registered voter list that has no outside influence and they're confident it's accurate



- **ADOPT A RESOLUTION** for City and County to work together to secure registered voter list

ELECTION INTEGRITY GOAL #4

Validated Paper Ballots

- Through Local Management

Municipalities Can Administer Absentee Ballots Including Mail-In Ballots

MN Statute 203B.05

DESIGNATION OF MUNICIPAL CLERKS TO ADMINISTER ABSENTEE VOTING LAWS

§Subdivision 1. **Generally.**

The full-time clerk of any city or town shall administer the provisions of sections [203B.04](#) to [203B.15](#) and [203B.30](#) if:

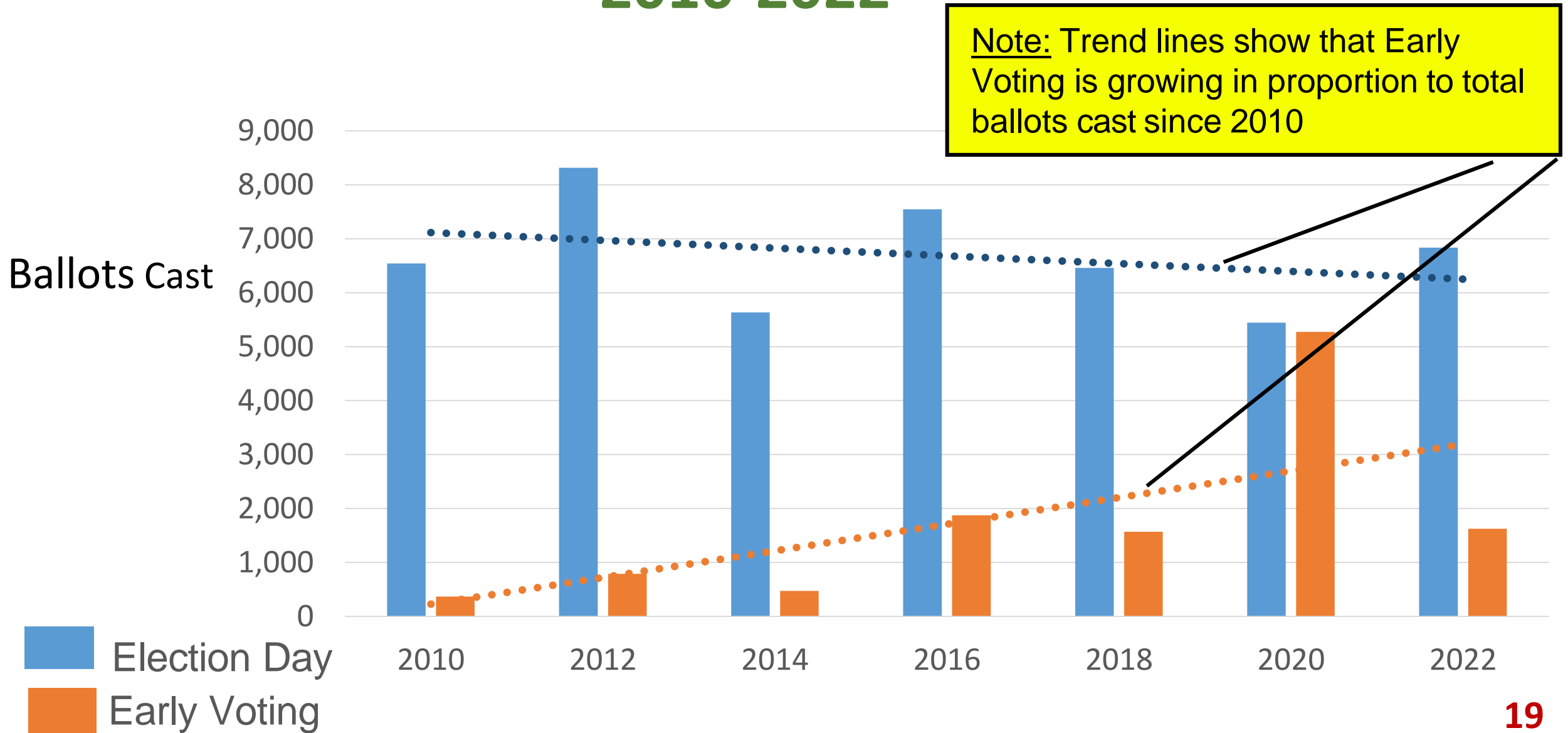
- (1) the county auditor of that county has designated the clerk to administer them; or
- (2) the clerk has given the county auditor of that county notice of intention to administer them

Absentee Ballot Administration

		Current County Admin		Proposed City Admin	
<u>Goal</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Admin</u>	<u>Cooperate</u>	<u>Admin</u>	<u>Cooperate</u>
Counterfeit Resistant	Ballot Design	County	City	County	City
Counterfeit Resistant	Ballot Printing	County	City	County	City
Tracking	Storage Before Use	County	City	County	City
Tracking	Storage During Use	County	City	City	County
Tracking	46-Day Voting	County	City	City	County
Tracking	Tabulation	County	City	City	County



CITY OF HAM LAKE_BALLOTS CAST BY YEAR: 2010-2022



Summary | Recommendations

- Absentee mail-in ballots have a greater risk of fraud
- Counterfeit resistant ballots are available and should be used
- The proportion of absentee mail-in ballots is growing
- Cities should administer all absentee ballots including mail-in ballots
- *MN 2022 Absentee Voting Administration Guide*

- ❑ ADOPT A RESOLUTION to administer absentee mail-in ballots solely at the city
- ❑ ADOPT A RESOLUTION to create a city Ballot Board to administer mail-in ballots



ELECTION INTEGRITY GOAL #5

Paper Poll Books

- Through Local Management

Online Security Risk Points in Poll Pads

Electronic

- KNOWiNK/BPro/ePulse Cloud INTEGRATED data management
- 129 Verizon SA2100 hot spot devices
- 5 Cisco Meraki MR42 routers
- 22 iSync Cloud drives
- Anoka County's data on Amazon Aurora in Amazon's GovCloud

Paper

- None

Electronic Poll Pads Don't Just Check You In...

- Customizable real-time reporting
- Election night reporting
- Ballot tracking
- Inventory tracking
- Issue tracking
- Update voter rolls minutes before an election in near real-time
- Poll worker time-tracking
- Runs concurrent elections
- Video and text messaging communications from Poll Pads to ePulse

Finding:

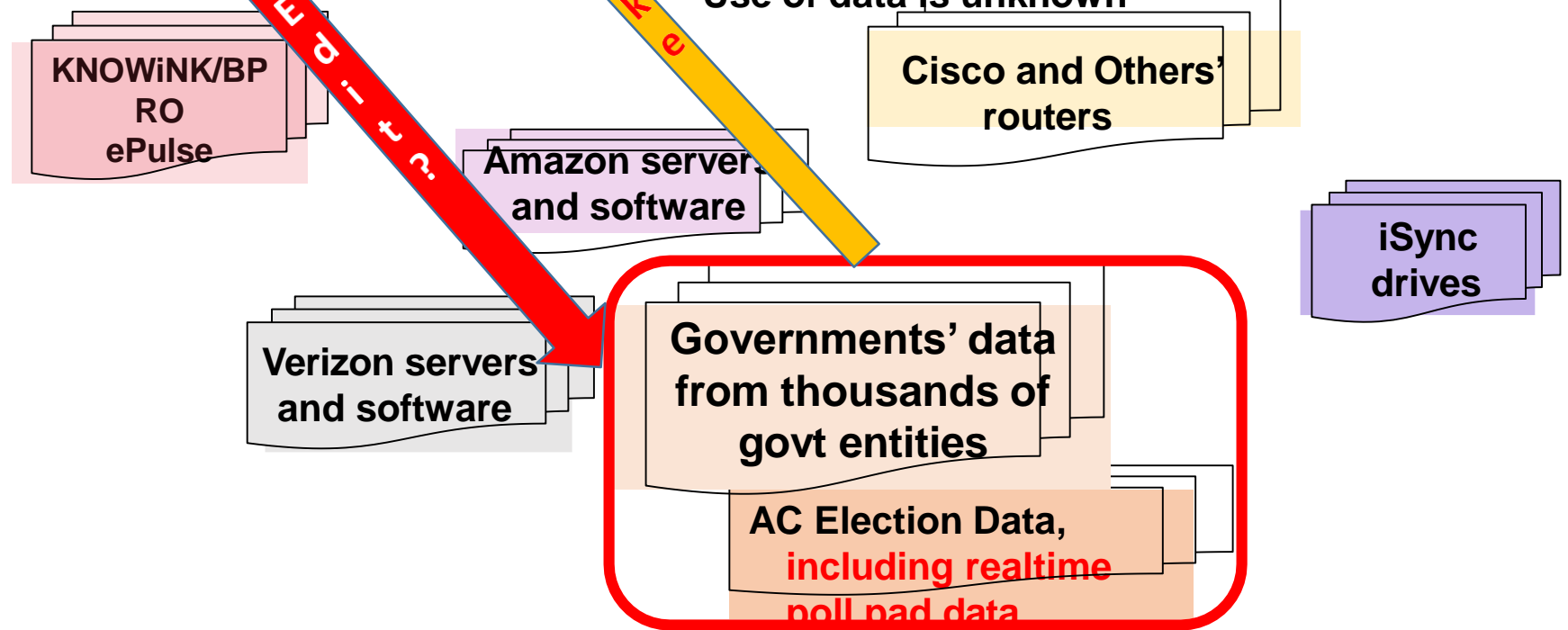
The Department of Homeland Security's CISA Department uses the Albert System and FirstNet, which may have access to voting systems through the poll pads



"The Cloud"

The Cloud is merely buildings (rooms and rooms) SPANNING ACROSS THE WORLD full of super-capacity computers/memory banks with interconnecting Internet/pathways.

- Used by billions of entities to store/share/access data
- Out of the control of those saving to the Cloud
- Use of data is unknown



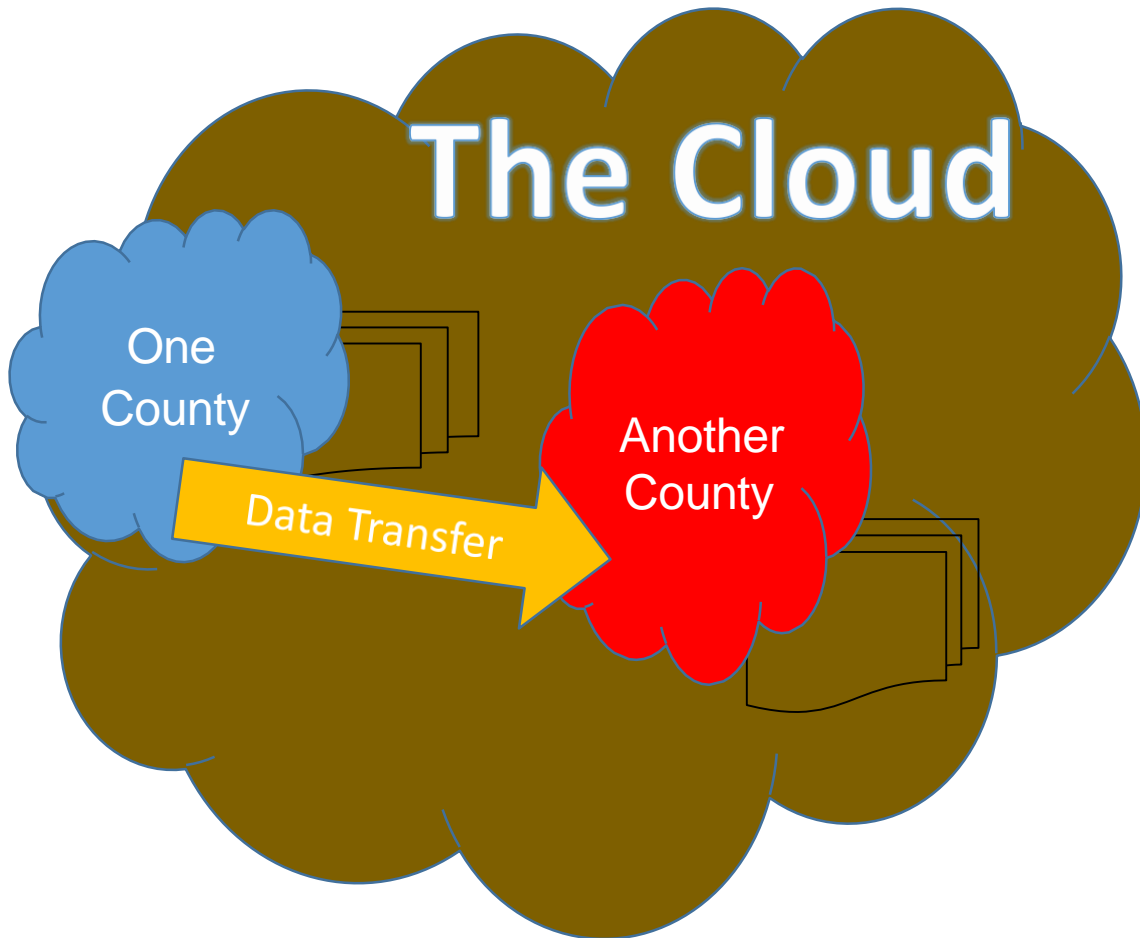
Finding:

Poll pads have been used as a digital ledger to add, delete, and shift large volumes of voters to achieve the desired vote counts

Result:

Phantom and fraudulent registrations/votes in the system that are untraceable – achieved as electronic poll pads were used to:

- 1) Slightly modify people's names in the Voter Registration Rolls to add "registered people" for which ballots can be created/added as needed
- 2) Move people's Voter Registration Roll records to non-existent addresses and then switch them back or delete the names to break any audit trail that would show the fraudulent activity

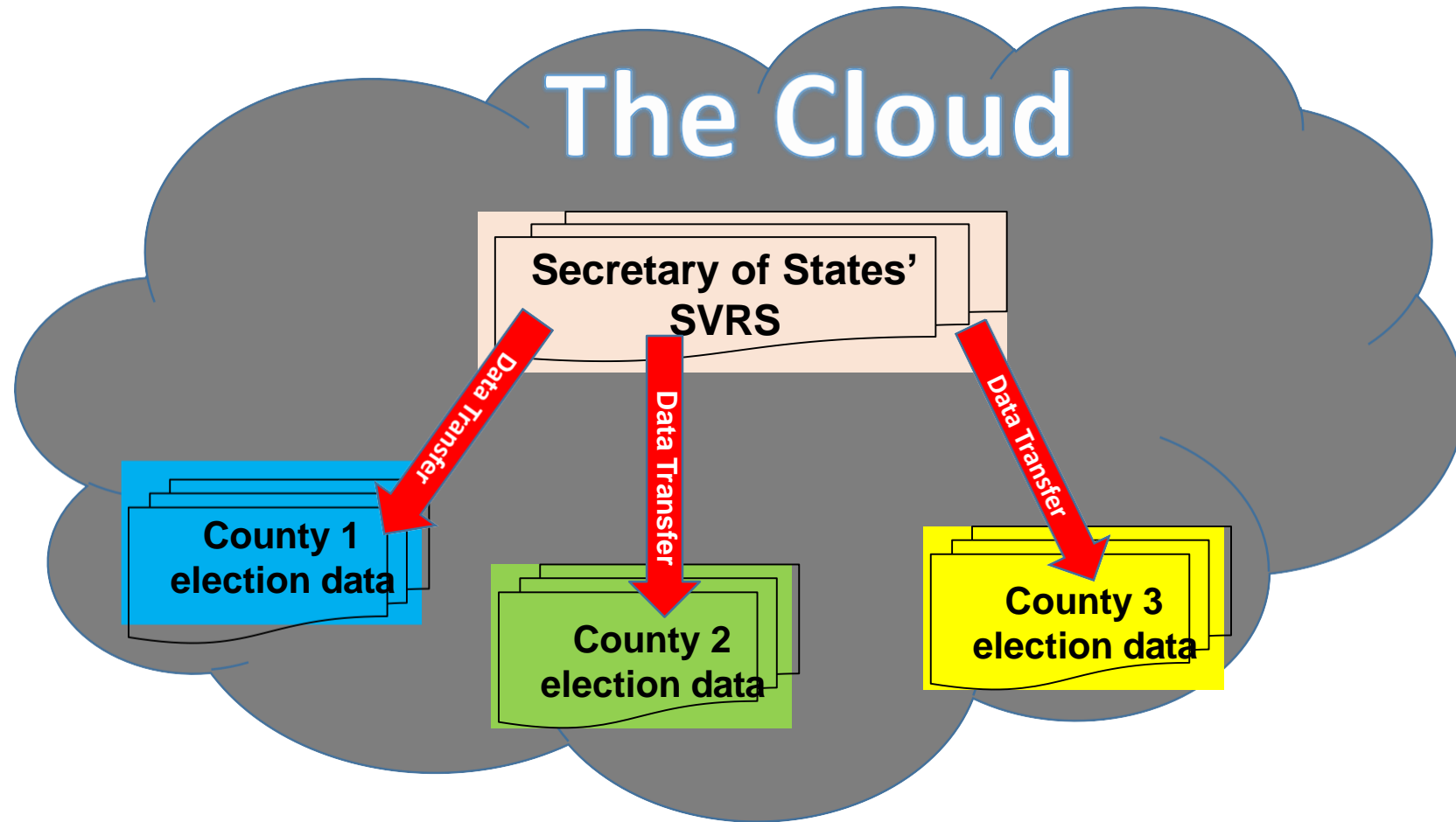


Finding:

New Mexico - the SOS reported vote totals down to the county level

Result:

Online manipulation of data to report desired result, overriding the true result



You Have a Choice

201.225 ELECTRONIC ROSTER AUTHORIZATION.

Subdivision 1. Authority.

A county, municipality, or school district **may** use electronic rosters for any election. In a county, municipality, or school district that uses electronic rosters, the head elections official **may** designate that some or all of the precincts use electronic rosters. An electronic roster must comply with all of the requirements of this section. An electronic roster must include information required in section [201.221](#), subdivision 3, and any rules adopted pursuant to that section.

...

Subd. 5. Election day.

(a) Precincts **may** use electronic rosters for election day registration, to process preregistered voters, or both. The printed election day registration applications must be reviewed when electronic records are processed in the statewide voter registration system. The election judges shall determine the number of ballots to be counted by counting the number of original voter signature certificates or the number of voter receipts.

(b) Each precinct using electronic rosters **shall** have a paper backup system approved by the secretary of state present at the polling place to use in the event that the election judges are unable to use the electronic roster.

Paper Works!

- All of Anoka County precincts used paper poll books until 2018
- Nearby Isanti County still uses paper poll books in 17 of 19 precincts
- 29 (1/3rd of) MN counties still use paper poll books today
- MN Statute 201.225 Subdivision 5.b. mandates paper poll books at every precinct for every election
 - They must be available as backup
 - They are printed the night before the election for every precinct
 - Each precinct maintains their copy onsite on election day

Paper is More Cost-Effective

Electronic

- Original capital, license, maintenance cost in 2018 \$602,033
- Average annual expenses \$69,930
 - Software license, maintenance fees \$63,125/yr.
\$1,000/yr.
 - Software connectivity license \$3870-\$7740/yr.
 - Verizon Wireless Data Plan (hotspots)
 - \$3,870 in odd years
 - \$7,740 in even years
- Total Anoka County cost for 2018-2023 \$1,029,353
- NOTE: Need for capital upgrade between 2024-2026 \$218,413

Paper

- Paper and ink
(Same as today – as required in MN Statute 201.225)

Summary | Recommendations

- Electronic poll pads are not worth the risk
- Returning to using ONLY paper poll books is the safe way to check voters in
- Paper works and it is cheaper
- Many precincts in Minnesota use paper ONLY



- ADOPT A RESOLUTION to return to paper poll books

ELECTION INTEGRITY GOAL #6

Hand-Counted Paper Ballots

- Through Local Management

WHY HAND COUNT?

- Counting of votes is now hidden
 - Outsourced to NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations)
 - Commercialized—controlled by private companies
 - Proprietary—electronic source codes hidden
 - Private—not subject to Freedom of Information requests
- Cast Vote Records (the intended audit for tabulators)
 - MN counties refused to release them (before 2023)
 - Legislatively deemed non-public by MN law (as of 2023)

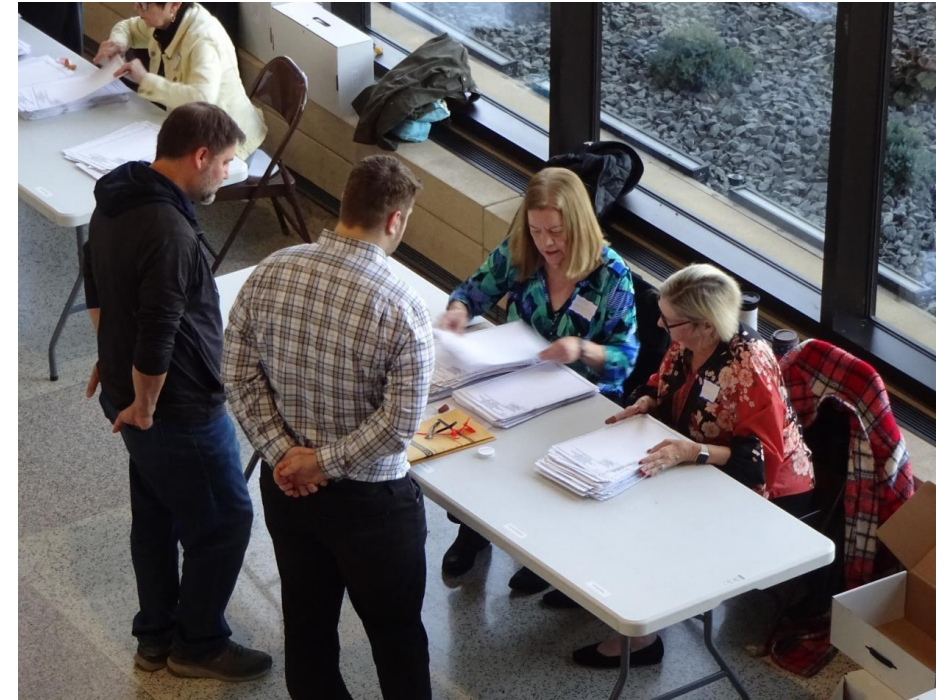
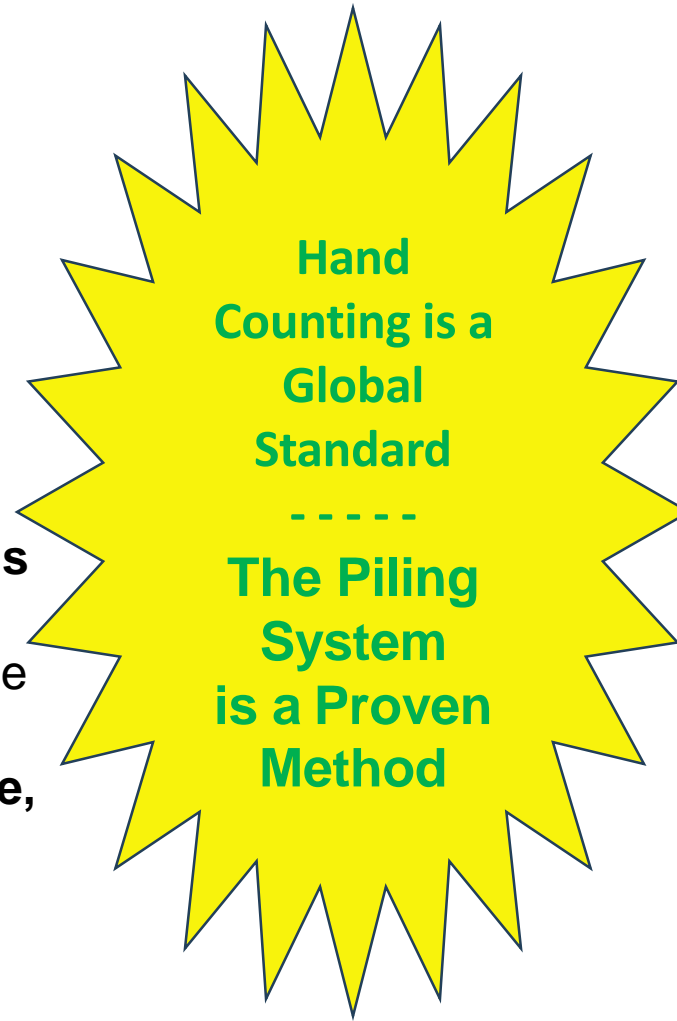
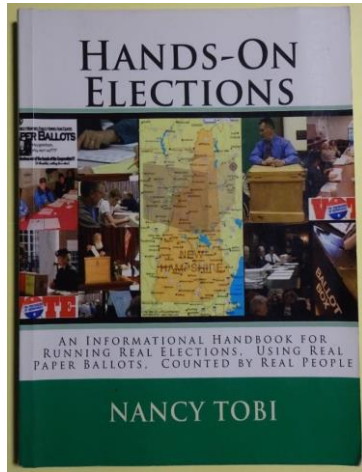
WHY HAND COUNT?

- Post-Election Review (PER) hand count after elections does not include:
 - Presidential Primary (March)
 - State Primary (August)-Federal, state and local offices
 - General Election (November)
 - MN offices—Sec. of State, Atty. General, Senate & House
 - County offices—commissioners, attorney, sheriff
 - Municipal offices—mayor, council, supervisors
 - School board offices
 - Questions on the ballot
- General Election PER covers only:
 - 2-3 offices of 30-38 offices
 - 4 precincts of 128 in Anoka County
 - Less than 0.3% sample
- PER happens 11-18 days after Election Day results are reported to media
- PER happens 11-18 days after Election Day, adding chain of custody risks
- **PER hand count can be expanded: # offices & # precincts**

**NO AUDITS FOR
DECADES**

**BALLOT EVIDENCE
DESTROYED AFTER
22 MONTHS**

MN Statute: Piling System



On November 15, 2023, Anoka County conducted a re-count of an Anoka-Hennepin School District election involving 4,393 ballots. Overall, **it took just over 5 seconds to process each ballot** for a single office.

“It takes approximately 6 seconds to hand count a contest on a ballot;...Experienced towns average 4-5 seconds to count each contest on a ballot, including training time, sorting, stacking and counting.”
(*Hands-On Elections* by Nancy Tobi, 2010, pp. 92-93).

A FEASIBLE STRATEGY

- Use tabulation machines now mandated by State law (M.S. 206.58)
- Hand count votes immediately after the polls close (M.S. 204C.19)
- Hand count only competitive offices—5-15 rather than 30-38
- Employ a new fresh election judges to do this additional task
- Estimate the time and cost to hand count in your city

Our Team will prepare a Hand Count Feasibility Report detailing the time and cost to hand count ballots and votes in the 2024 in your city.

CITY OF HAM LAKE HAND COUNT PLAN 2024

1. Number of Offices and Choices to be Counted as Per Piling System

Primary/General Office	Primary 3/5 Hand Count	Primary 8/13 Hand Count	General 11/5 Hand Count	General 11/5 Machine	If Contested Count Need?
US President	1	1	1	1	Yes
US Senator	0	1	1	1	Yes
US Representative	0	1	1	1	Yes
MN Senator	0	0	0	0	None in 2024
MN Representative	0	1	1	1	Yes
Anoka County Board	0	0	0	0	up in 2026
SWCD	0	0	1	1	0-1 by Districts
Mayor	0	0	0	0	up in 2026
Council (2)	0	0	4	2	0,3+ at large
School Board*	0	0	0.1	3	0-4-8 at large
Questions (TBD)	0	0	0	0	TBD
Supreme Court	0	0	0	4	0 is normal
Court of Appeals	0	0	0	6	0 is normal
10th District Court	0	0	0	20	0 is normal
TOTALS	1	4	9.1	40	


Notes:

1. The Piling System of hand counting consists of sort, pile and count as per MS 204C.21
2. Shaded cells denote hand counting at federal, state, local and school board levels.
- Local includes county, soil&water district, city, township, school district & questions.

	A	B	C	D	E	F
★	<u>2. Estimate of Time to Hand Count</u>					
26		Primary 3/5	Primary 8/13	<u>General 11/5</u>		
27	Factor	Number	Numbers	Number	Notes	Sources
28	Total Ballots (estimated)	2,319	1,796	11,759	2020 x 1.1	Estimate
29	Number of Offices	1	4	9.1		Known
30	Total Choices to Count	2,319	7,185	107,007		Calculated
★	Seconds Per Choice	6	6	6		Studies
32	# Hours to Count	3.86	11.98	178.34		Calculated
33	Number of Precincts	6	6	6		Known
34	Number of Teams/Precinct	1	2	8		Assigned
35	Number of Judges/Team	2	2	2		Assigned
36	Run Time (Hours) →	0.64	1.00	3.72		Calculated
★	Total Number of Judges →	12	24	96		Calculated
38						
39	<u>Estimate of Total Ballots</u>			<u>2020 Ballots</u>	<u>Projection</u>	<u>2024 Estimate</u>
40	US President Totals	# Ballots 2020 Primary		2108	2020 x 1.1	2,319
41	US Senate Totals	# Ballots 2020 Primary		1,633	2020 x 1.1	1,796
42	US President Totals	# Ballots 2020 General		10,690	2020 x 1.1	11,759
43	*Source: <i>Hands-On Elections</i> , Nancy Tobi, 2010, pp 92-93. This time includes judge training					
44	organizing work, sorting, stacking, counting and tallying of votes on all ballots.					
45						37

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
46	3. Estimate of Cost to Hand Count						
47	Factor	Primary 3/5	Primary 8/13	General 11/5	Total	Sources	
48	Run Time Rounded Up	1.00	1.00	4.00		B-D36	
49	Number of Judges	12	24	96		B-D37	
50	<u>Hourly Rate</u>	<u>\$12.38</u>	<u>\$12.38</u>	<u>\$12.38</u>		Apply rate by policy	
51	Total Cost to Count	\$149	\$297	\$4,754		Calculated	
52	Federal & State	\$149	\$30	\$178	\$475	Calculated	
53	County/City/SD	\$0	\$267	\$267	\$0	Calculated	
54	Judicial Offices	\$0	\$223	\$223	\$0	Calculated	
55	Cost Per Ballot	\$0.06	\$0.17	\$0.40			
56	Notes:						
57	1. For At-Large offices the ballot must be sorted for each candidate.						
58	2. This analysis is based upon the Piling System of hand counting as per MS 204C.21.						
59	3. On November 15, 2023 Anoka County conducted the Arco-Witt re-count for school board.						
60	It included 4,393 ballots and took just 5.12 second per ballot to count including setup and reporting.						
61	4. Ham Lake is most served by Anoka-Hennepin ISD#11 with a small part served by Forest Lake ISD#831						
62	Anoka-Hennepin has elections in odd numbered years.						
63	Forest Lake ISD#831-3 or 4 seats at large in even years (need to count for each candidate)						

Summary | Recommendations

- Hand Count Scope-Time-Cost can be Measured and Controlled
- **Procedure-based elections**  **Evidence-based elections**
- We need transparent, verifiable, auditable counting for public trust
- Send message: ***Don't mess with Anoka County, don't mess with my city***

Three Options

At Polls on Election Day

Under County Post-Election Review (PER) 11-18 days after Election

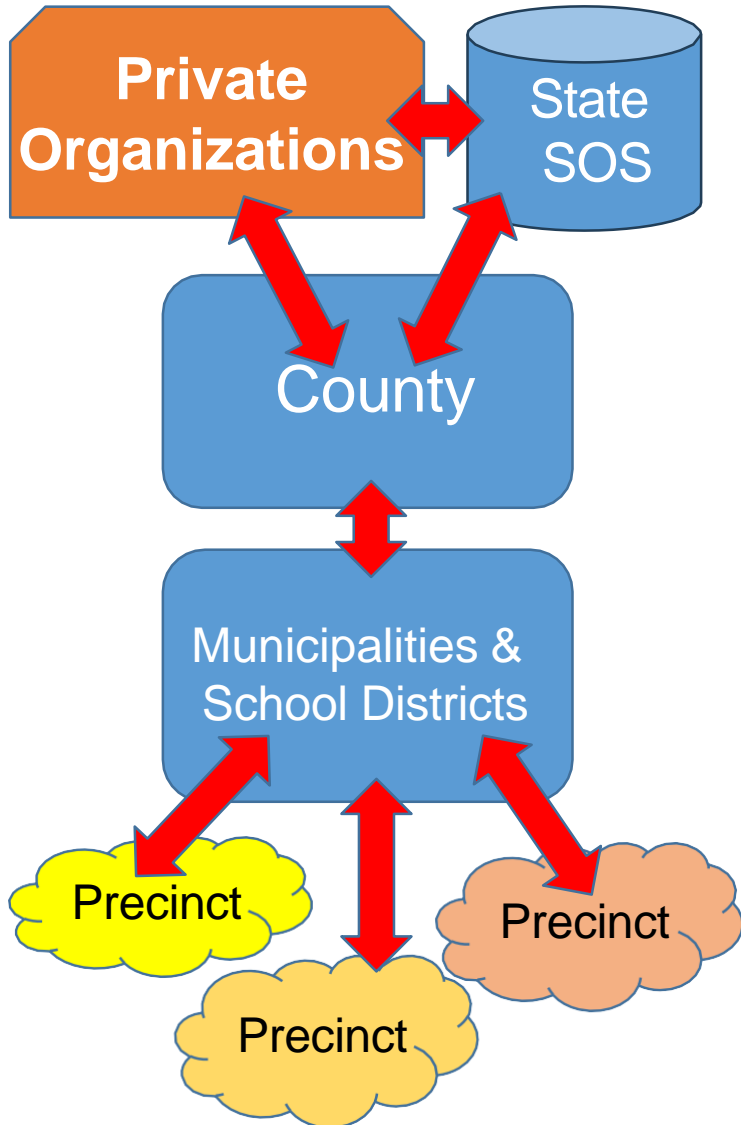
Under delegated Municipal PER 11-18 days after Election



- ❑ ADOPT RESOLUTIONS to hand count paper ballots by:
 - ❑ City at precincts after polls close (M.S. 204C.19)
 - ❑ County at Government Center under PER (M.S. 206.89)
 - ❑ City at City Center under delegated PER (M.S. 206.89)

THE SOLUTION: **Locally Controlled Elections**

Move From TODAY's Model



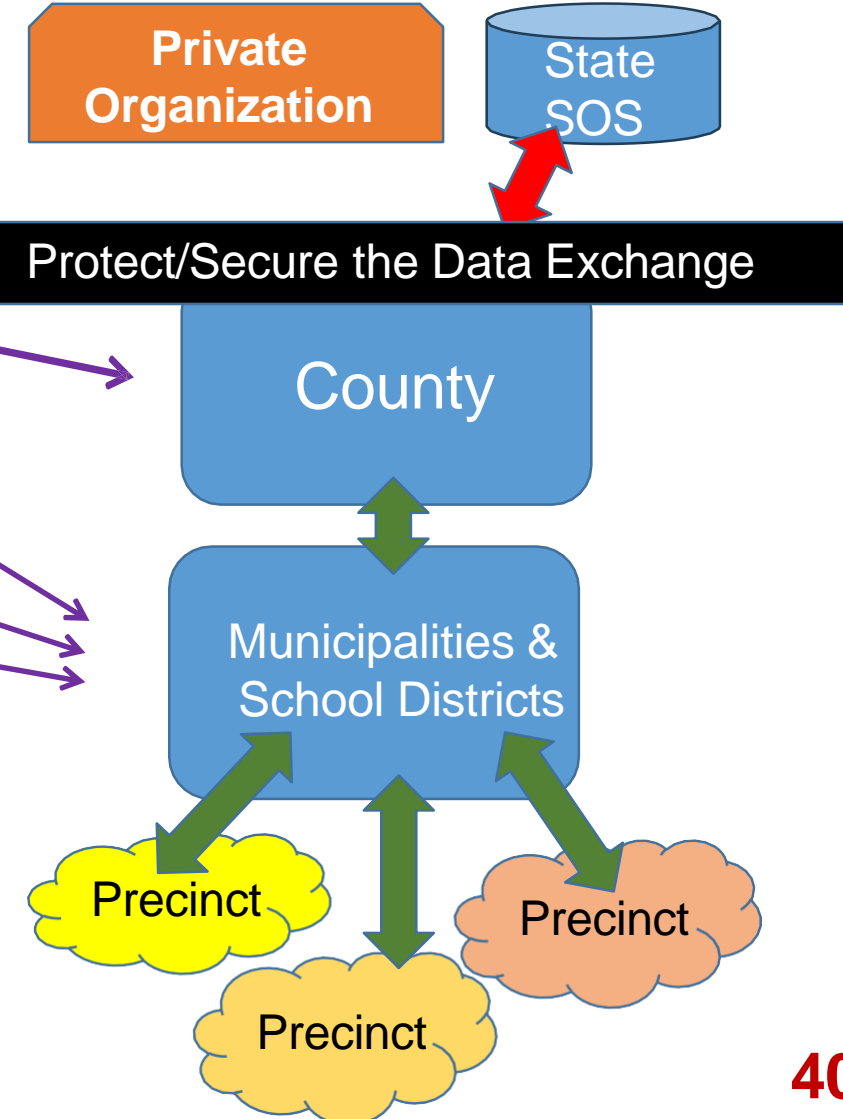
Based on MN Statute



Voter Registration
 Voter Validation
 Tabulation
 Reporting



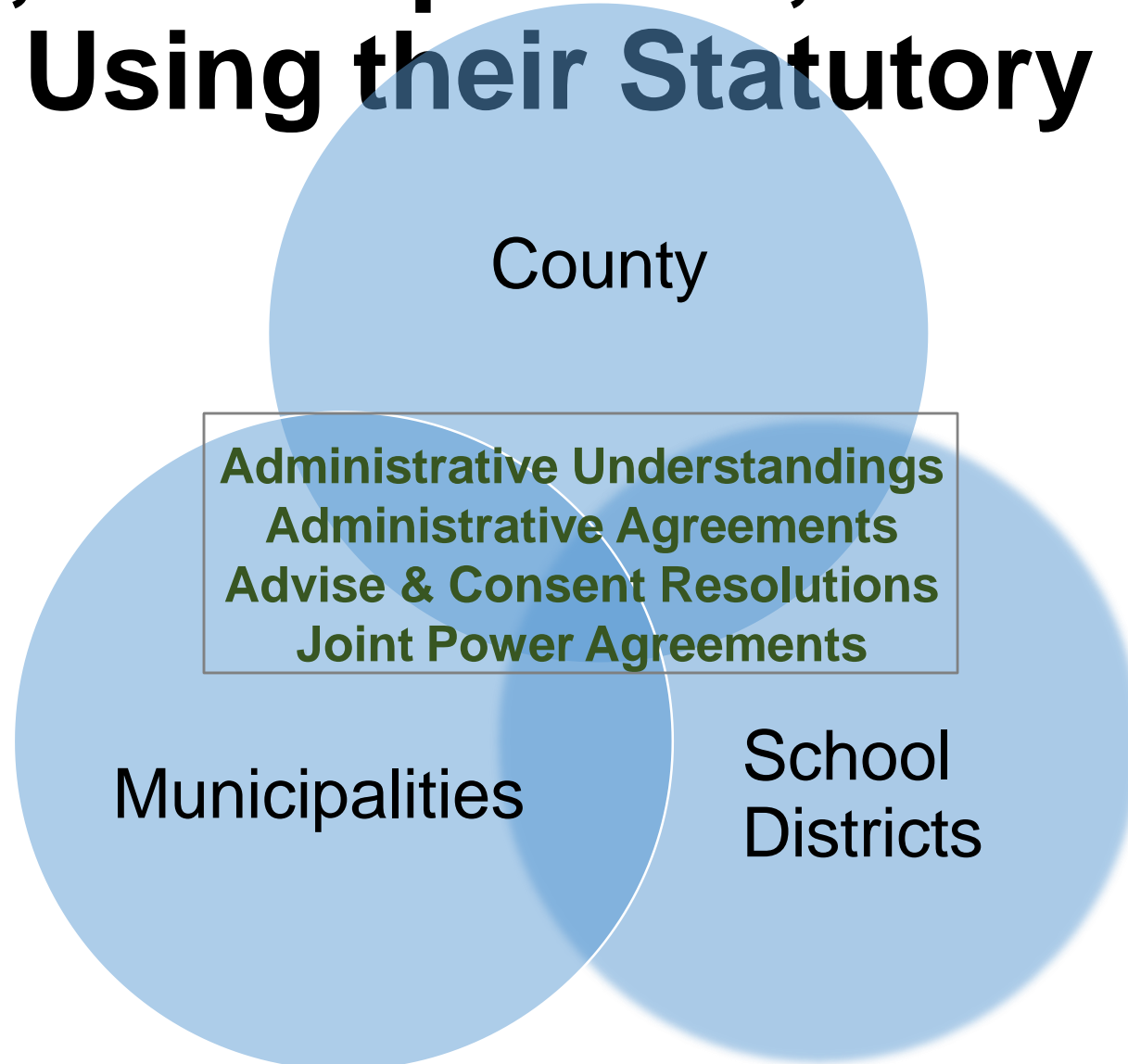
To A SECURE Local Model



THE STRATEGY:

County, Municipalities, and School Districts Using their Statutory Powers

This strategy may involve independent actions or cooperative operations under administrative or formal joint powers agreements.



Our Country has been strongest when it is governed from the bottom up, not the top down.

Action Items – Adopt Resolutions



(See Templates)

1. Small Voting Precincts

- Establish voting precincts for each election year
- Define guiding principles for establishing voting precincts
- Request that the County create policy to maintain small voting precincts

2. Secured Election Judge Data

- Appoint election judges for each election
- Request that Anoka County secure election judge personal data

3. Verified Registered Voters

- Request that the County create policy to verify and allow only registered voters files

4. Validated Paper Ballots

- Request that the County create policy to validate paper ballots

5. Paper Poll Books

- Return to using only paper poll books (no electronic poll pads)

6. Hand-Counted Paper Ballots

- Pre-Resolution: Request Hand Count Feasibility Report, Hand Count Plan, Time & Cost Calculator
- Hand count ballots at the polls after closing for races involving > 1 candidate
- Request that Anoka County include city voting precincts in Post-Election Review (PER)
- Request that Anoka County delegate the Post-Election Review (PER) to the municipality
- Give notice to County of intent to establish Absentee Ballot Board and administer absentee ballots
- Establish Absentee Ballot Board

The background of the slide is a blurred American flag. The stars and stripes are visible but out of focus, creating a bokeh effect. The colors are primarily blue, white, and red.

THANK YOU

The Anoka County Election Integrity Team (ACEIT) thanks you for this opportunity to present information in support of secure and transparent home-grown elections.

We stand ready to assist and support local officials in making decisions to further these goals.