

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 Oak Grove
January 29, 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

Managing Voting Precincts

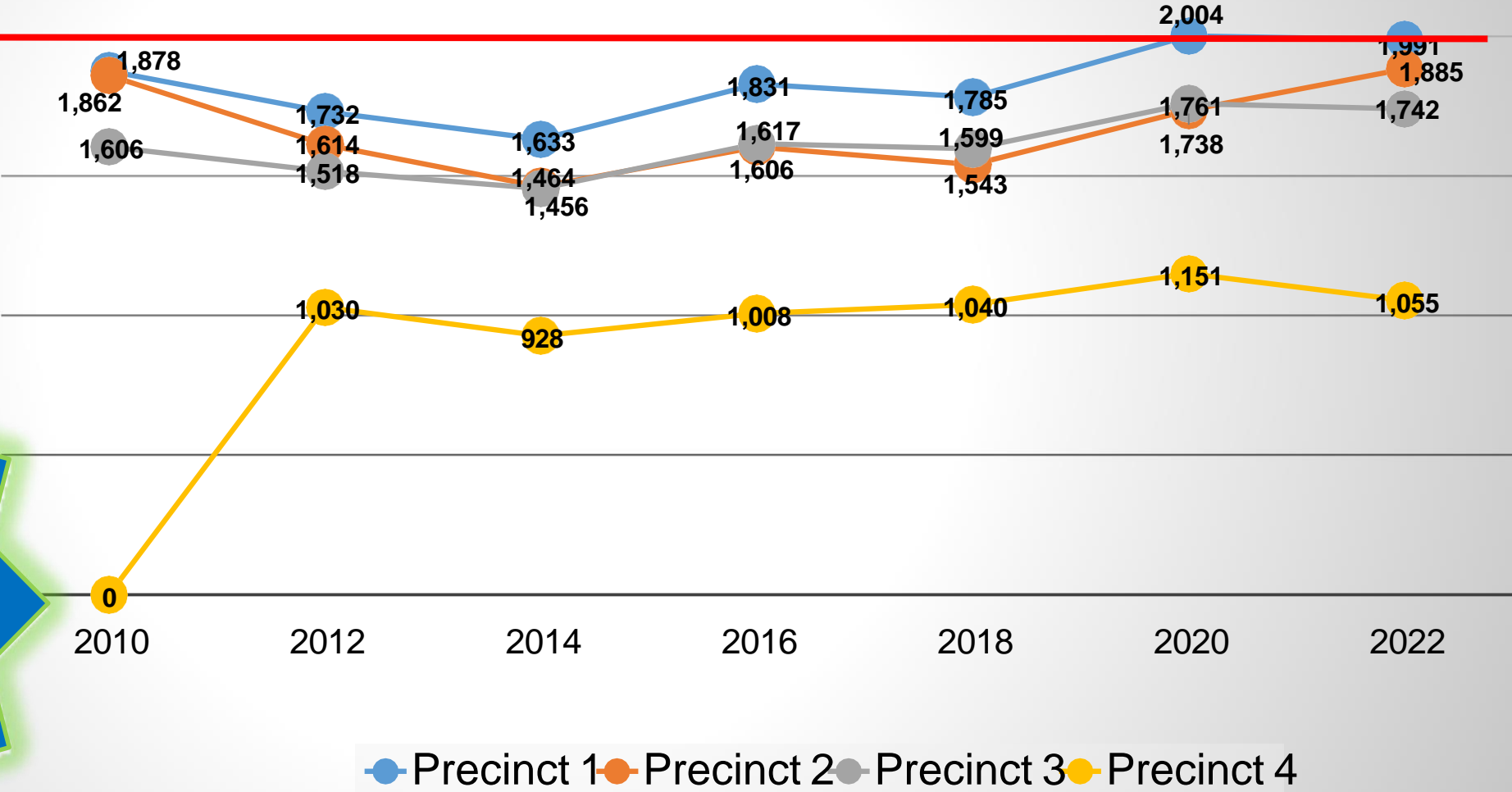
- Per MN Statute, authority resides with the municipality
 - Municipalities define voting precincts and polling places (M.S. 204B.14)
 - Precincts can be changed under certain conditions and decennially (M.S. 204B.14)
- Precincts are based upon administrative convenience
 - Precincts with more than 2,000 registered voters may become difficult to manage
 - Few precincts in Minnesota have more than 2,000 registered voters
- Continue to evaluate and redistrict the changing population to:
 - Expand number of precincts with population growth
 - Rebalance sizes of very large and small precincts

Seek precinct size below 2,000 registered voters in general elections

CITY OF OAK GROVE_REGISTERED VOTERS BY PRECINCT: 2010-2022

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

Number of
Registered
Voters



We congratulate
the City of Oak
Grove for
maintaining
precincts below
2,000

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

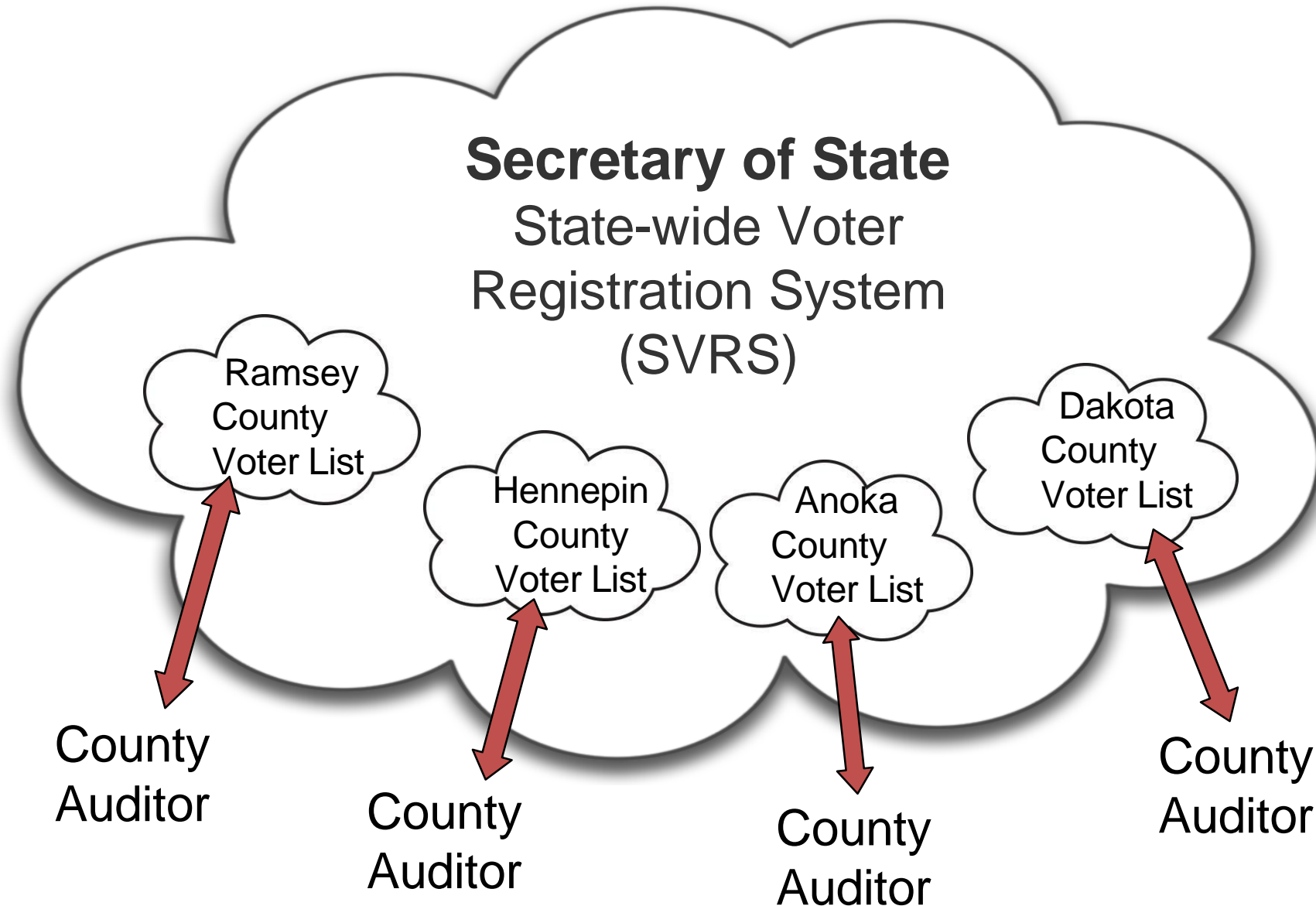
MN Statute 201.091

REGISTERED VOTER LISTS; REPORTS; REGISTRATION PLACES

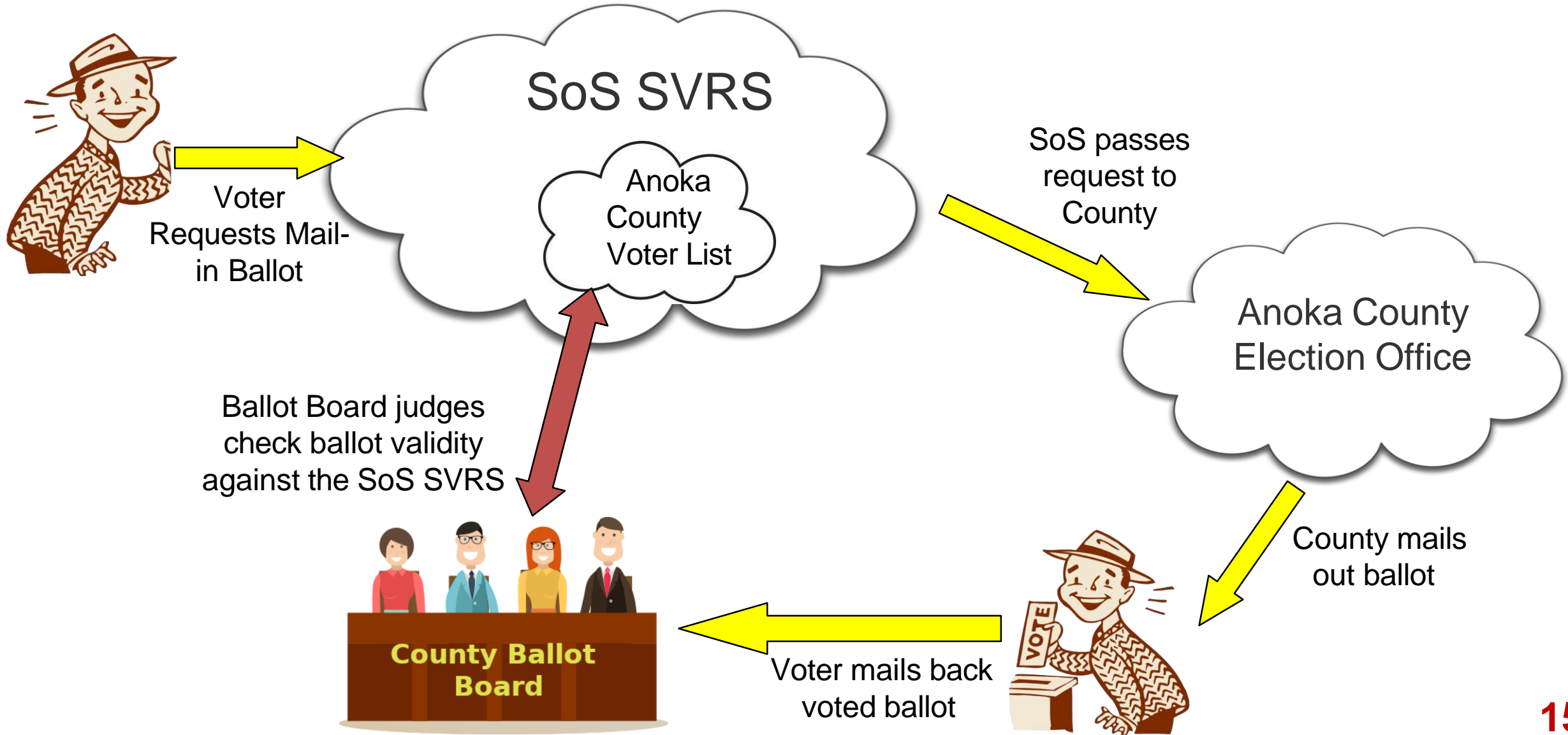
§ Subdivision 1. Master list.

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.

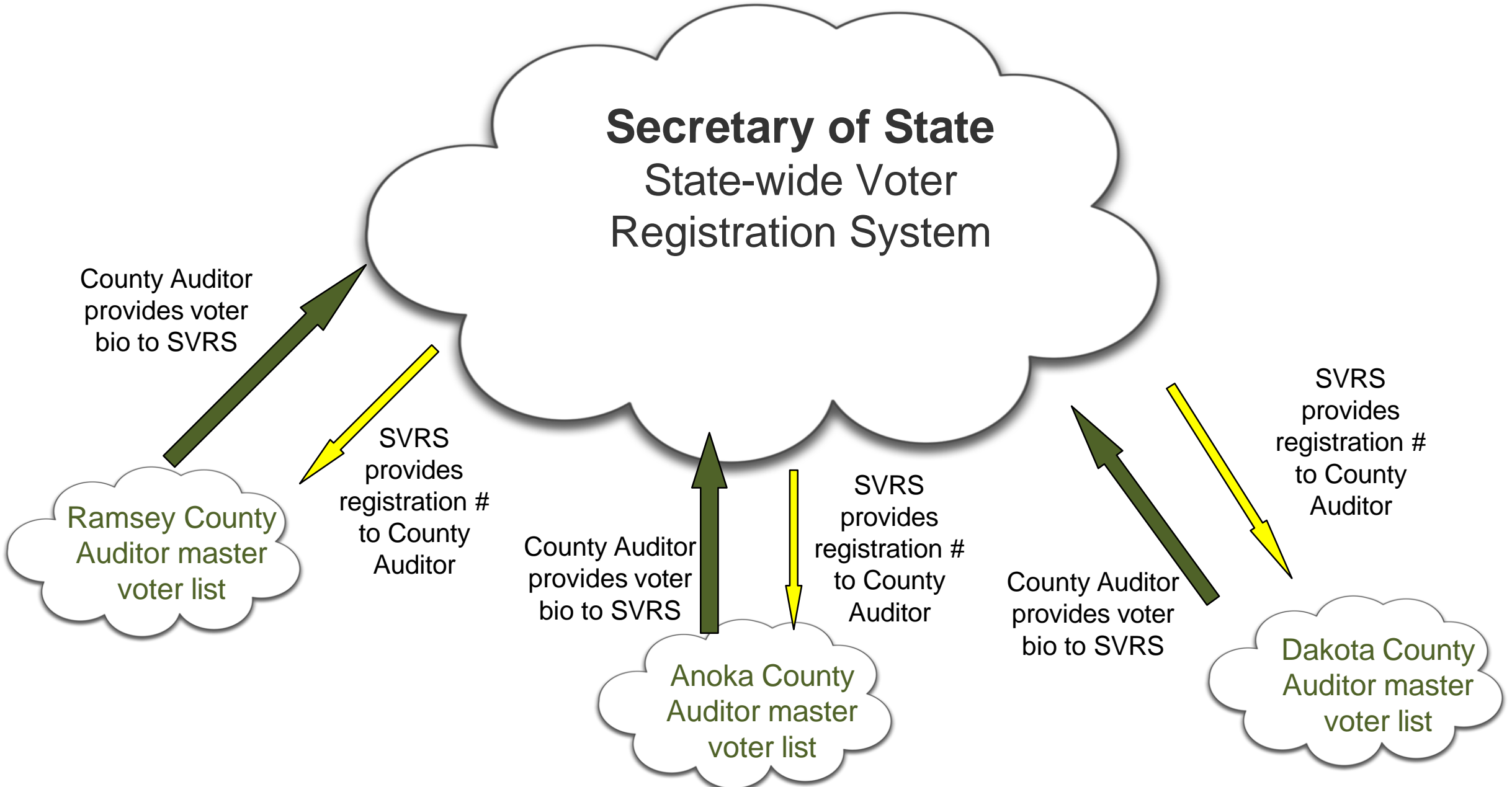
Architecture of Current Registered Voter List



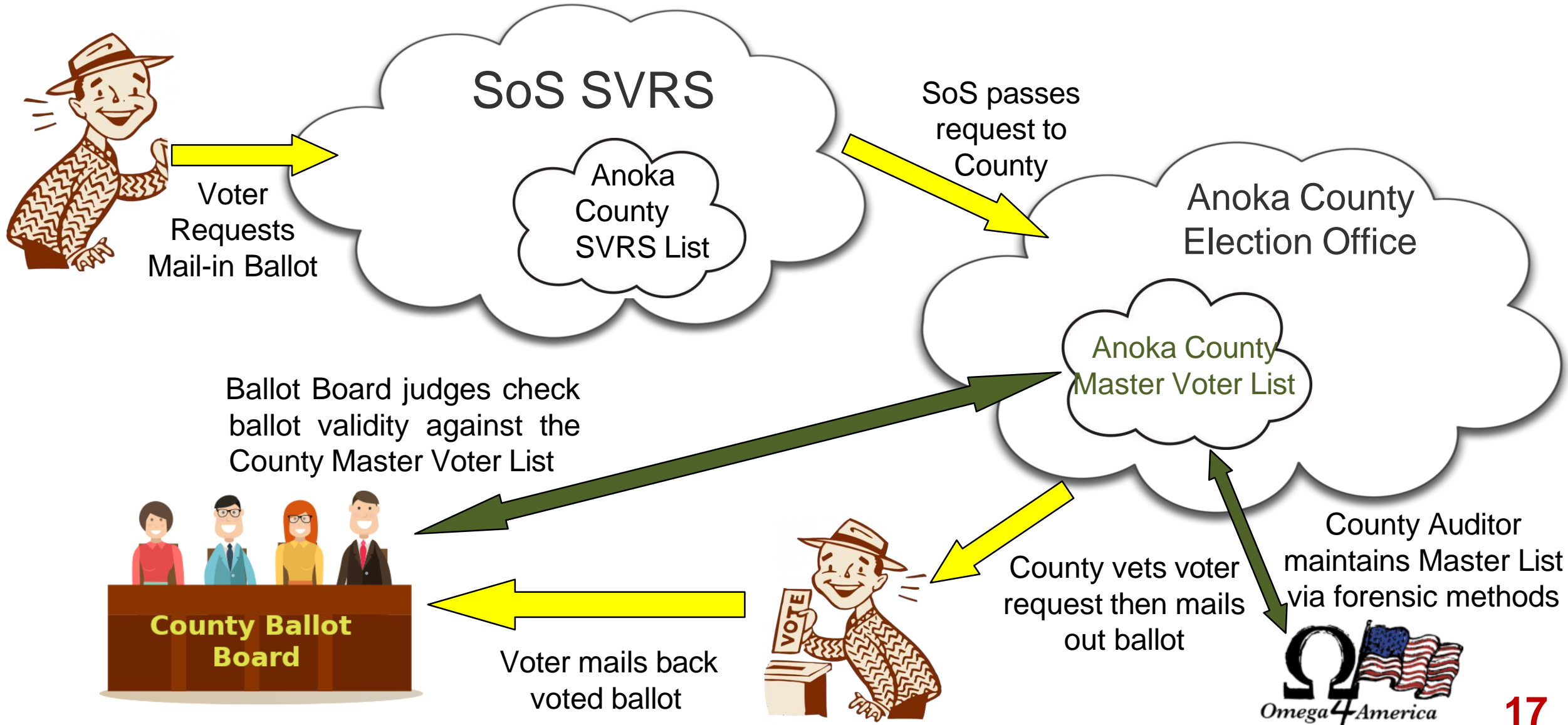
Vulnerability of Current SVRS Architecture



Architecture of County Auditor Master Voter List



Solution Architecture



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

Risk with Absentee/MAIL-IN Ballots

One-in-Five Mail-In Voters Admit to Committing at Least One Kind of Voter Fraud During 2020 Election

- *17% of mail-in voters admit that in 2020 they voted in a state where they are “no longer a permanent resident”*
- *21% of mail-in voters admitted that they filled out a ballot for a friend or family member*
- *17% of mail-in voters said they signed a ballot for a friend or family member “with or without his or her permission”*
- *8% of likely voters say they were offered “pay” or a “reward” for voting in 2020*

Taken together, the results of these survey questions appear to show that voter fraud was widespread in the 2020 election, especially among those who cast mail-in ballots.

Municipalities Can Administer Absentee 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

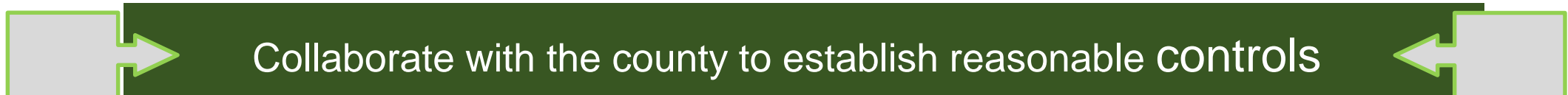
Absentee Ballot Administration

		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

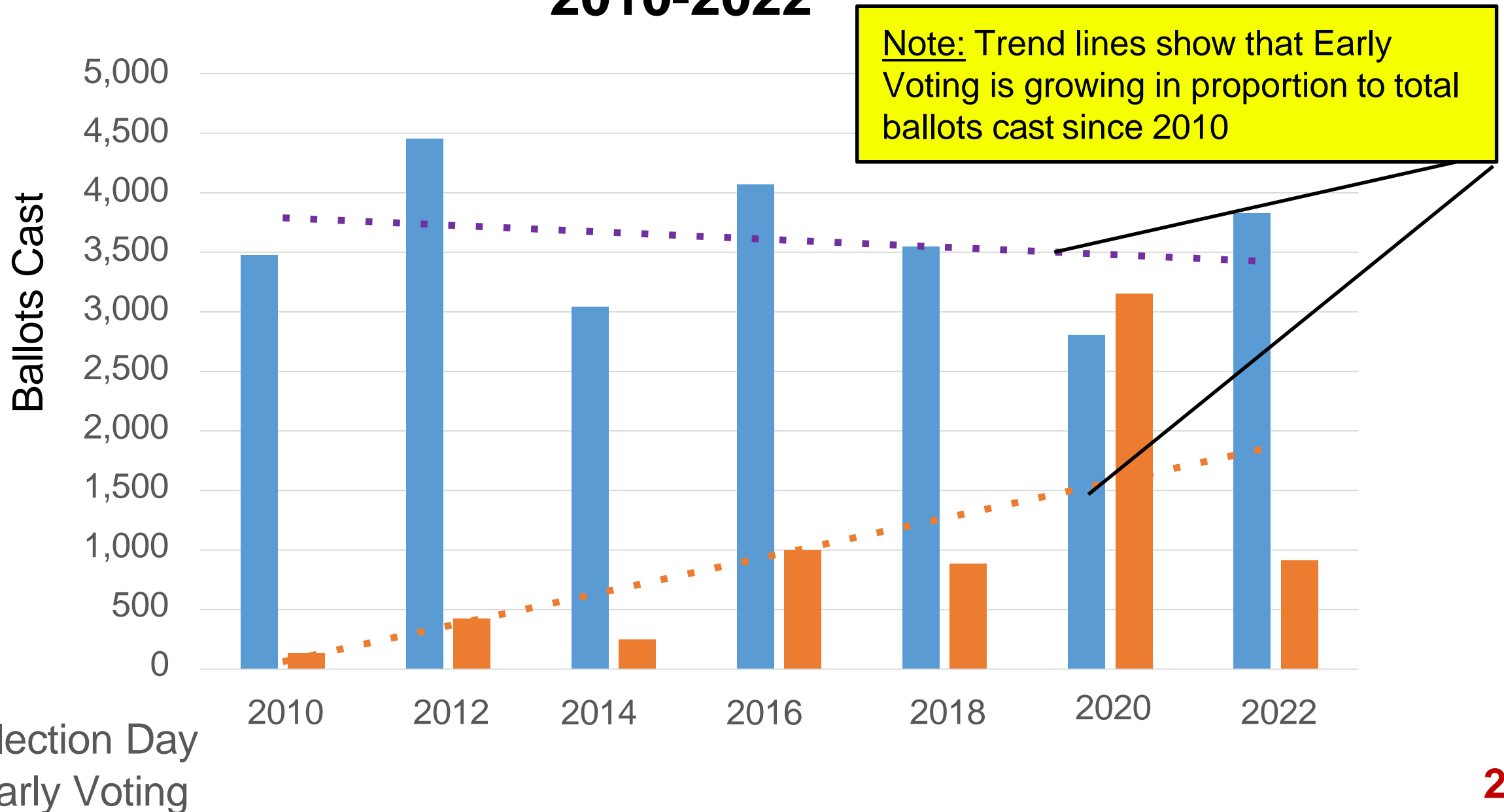


Managing Ballots Per MN Statute

- Municipalities can establish their own Ballot Board
 - MN Statute 203B.121 Subd1 (a) “BALLOT BOARDS” states:
The governing body of each county, municipality, and school district with responsibility to accept and reject absentee ballots or to administer early voting must, by ordinance or resolution, establish a ballot board.
- Municipalities have access to the Statewide Registration System
 - MN Statute 201.022 “STATEWIDE REGISTRATION SYSTEM” provides that:
The secretary of state shall maintain a statewide voter registration system to facilitate voter registration and to provide a central database containing voter registration information from around the state” and must also “(11) provide access to municipal clerks to use the system.
- The number of Absentee Ballots may grow in the future
 - MN Statute 201.071 REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS require voter registration forms to include “a box to indicate a voter's preference to join the permanent absentee voter list” which will likely increase the numbers of voters that will vote by absentee ballot.



CITY OF OAK GROVE_BALLOTS CAST BY YEAR: 2010-2022



Others are Choosing Municipality Control

“Crosslake is choosing to do the absentee ballot administration for residents in the City of Crosslake...

According to Statute...

the authority for absentee ballot administration can be delegated [from the County] to a municipality with a fulltime clerk, or any municipality that has a full time clerk can choose to [give] notice of intent for absentee voting.”

Deborah Erickson
Administrative Services
Director
Crow Wing County

Summary | Recommendations

- Counterfeit resistant ballots are available
- Public tracking is possible
- The proportion of absentee ballots is growing
- Absentee ballots have risk of fraud
- Cities can administer absentee ballots
- *MN 2022 Absentee Voting Administration Guide*



- ❑ ADOPT A RESOLUTION to administer absentee ballots
- ❑ ADOPT A RESOLUTION to create a Ballot Board and appoint judges

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

KNOWiNK/BP
RO
ePulse

Amazon servers
and software

Cisco and Others'
routers

iSync
drives

Verizon servers
and software

Governments' data
from thousands of
govt entities
AC Election Data,
including realtime
poll pad data

See

False

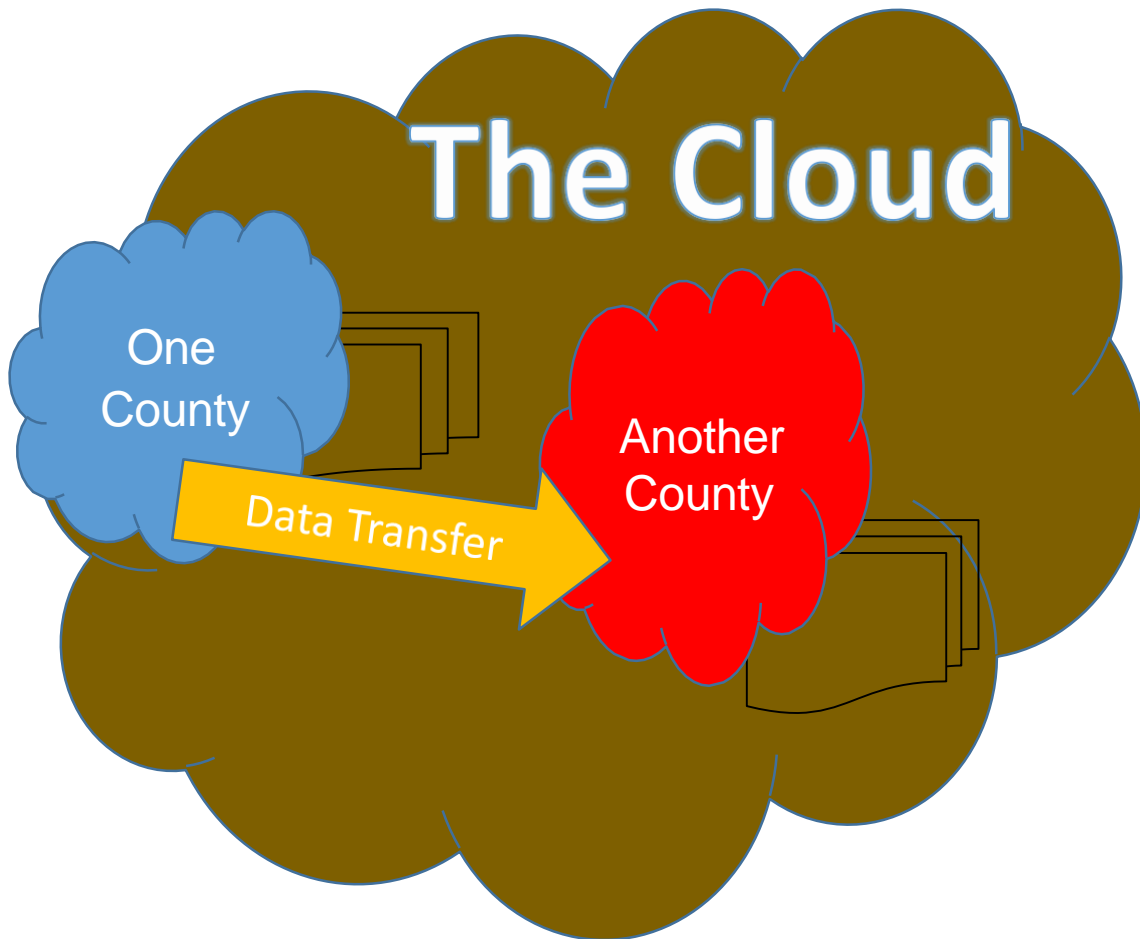
Finding:

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

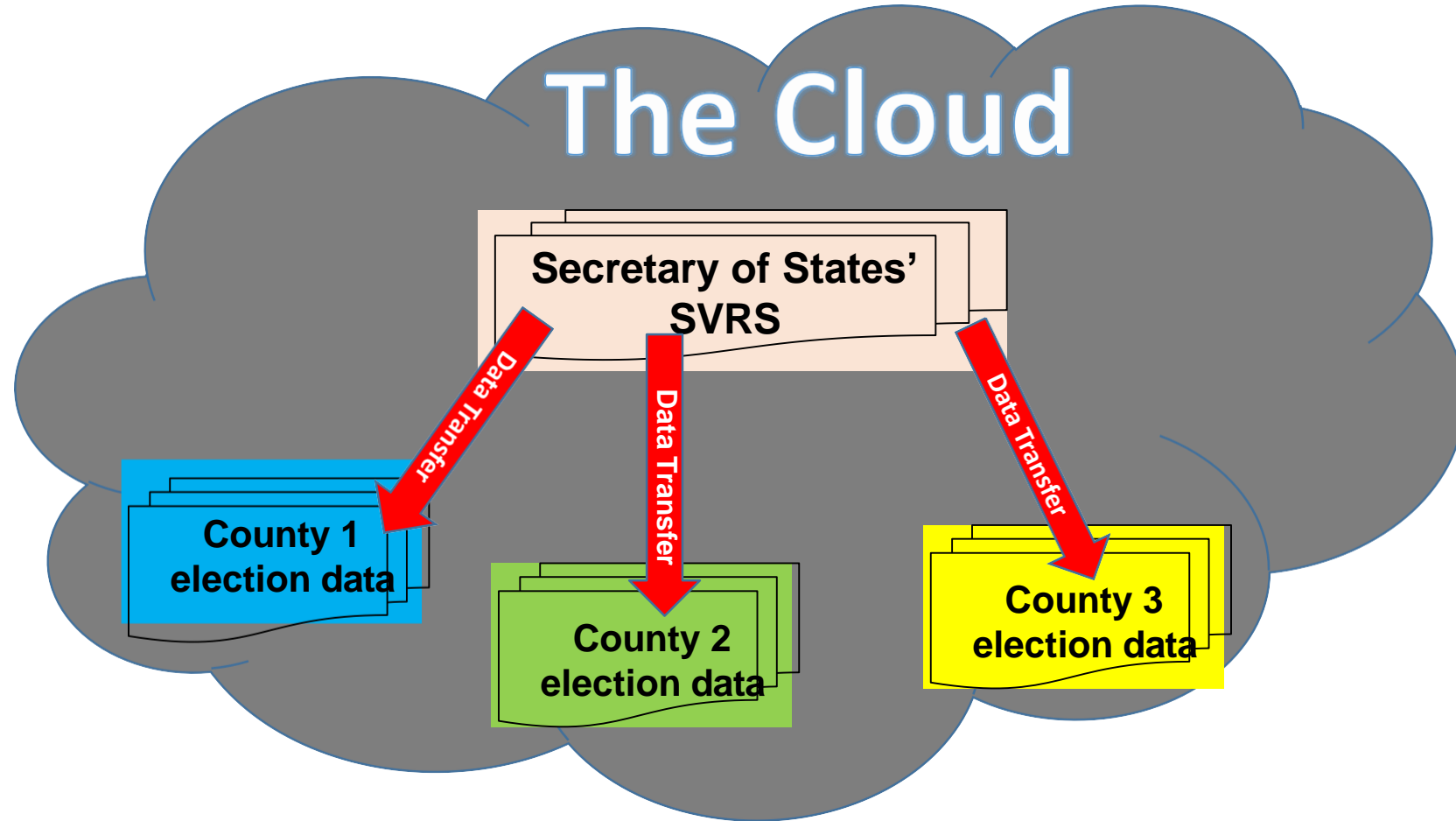


Finding:

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



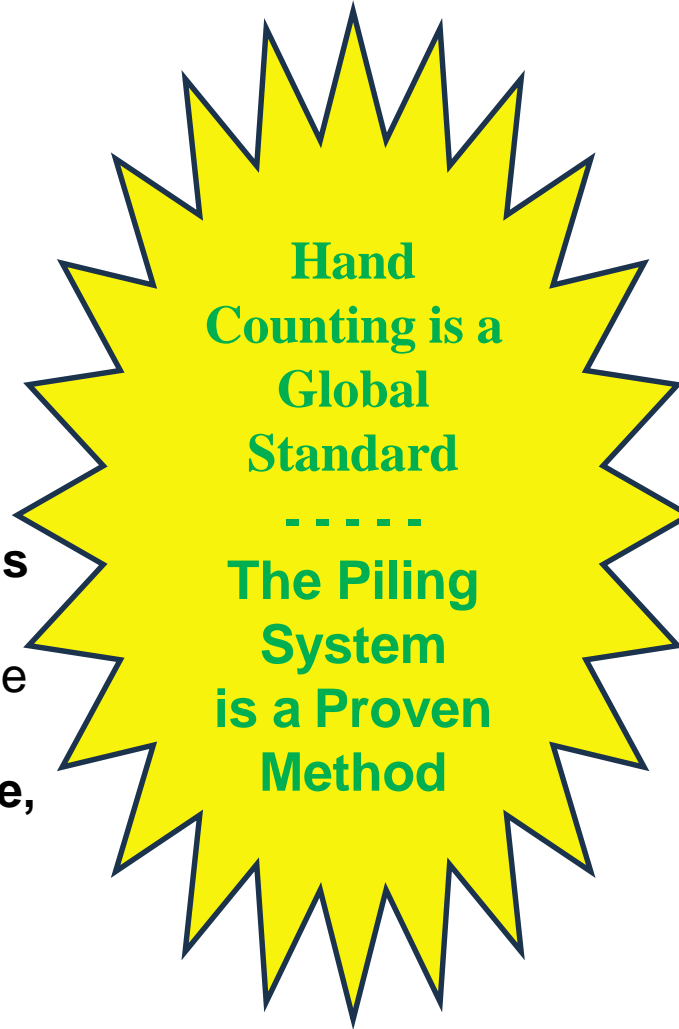
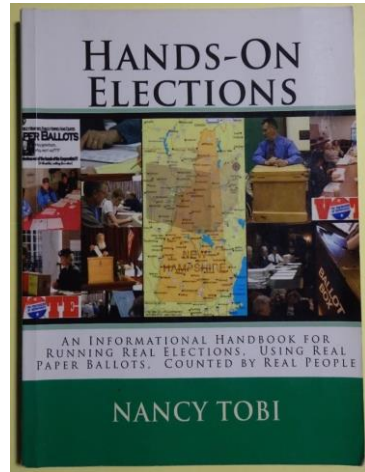
- ADOPT A RESOLUTION to return to paper poll books

ELECTION INTEGRITY GOAL #6

Hand-Counted Paper Ballots

Through Local Management

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



Anoka County Says:



Hand Counting

- MN Statute 206.58
 - Once a municipality has adopted the use of an electronic voting system in one or more precincts, the municipality must continue to use an electronic voting system for state elections in those precincts.
- Cannot be done in tandem with the use of machines
- Expensive
- Time Consuming
- Inaccurate

ACEIT Says:

- MN Statute 206.58 does not prohibit hand counting.
- **There is no statute saying tandem counting can not be done.**
- **There is no published Anoka County Attorney opinion on this.**
- There is a city attorney opinion saying hand counting can be done.
- There is a county attorney opinion in MN saying it can not be done.

Hand Count Comparison Anoka County vs ACEIT Proposal

Factor	County	ACEIT
1. Scope	All Offices (30+)	Competitive Only (8-12)
2. Place	Central	Precincts
3. Judges	Same as daytime	New Judges for pm
4. # Judges	1 Team of 2	Several Teams of 2
5. Run Time	Many Hours	2-4 Hours
6. Cost	Higher	Lower

CITY OF OAK GROVE 2024 HAND COUNT PLAN

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 Competitive Count Need?
5	US President	1		1	1	Yes
6	US Senator		1	1	1	Yes
7	US Representative		1	1	1	Yes
8	MN Senator		0	0	0	None in 2024
9	MN Representative		1	1	1	Yes
10	Anoka Co. Board		0	0.335	0	Gamache 33.5%
11	County SWCD		1	1	1	0-1; 0 is typical
12	Mayor		0	0	0	None in 2024
13	Council (2)		0	4	2	0, 3-4 at large
14	School Board		0	8	4	0, 5-8 at large
15	Questions/Referenda		0	0	0	TBD
16	Supreme Court		0	0	4	0 is typical
17	Court of Appeals		0	0	6	0 is typical
18	10th District Court		0	0	12	0 is typical
19	Total Choices Per Ballot	1	4	17.34	33	

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
25	★ 2. Estimate of Time to Hand Count					
26		Primary 3/5	Primary 8/5	General 11/5		
27	Factor	Number	Number	Number	Notes	Sources
28	Total Ballots (estimated)	1049	1,140	8,207	2020 x 1.1	Estimate
29	Number of Choices Per Ballot	1	4	17.34	B19, C19, D19	From Table 1
30	Total Choices to be Counted	1,049	4,558	142,270		Calculated
31	Seconds Per Choice	6	6	6	*See Below	Studies
32	# Hours to Count	1.7	7.6	237.1		Calculated
33	Number of Precincts	4	4	4		Known
34	Number of Teams/Precinct	1	2	15		Assigned
35	Number of Judges/Team	2	2	2		Assigned
36	Run Time (Hours) →	0.44	0.95	3.95		Calculated
37	Total Number of Judges →	8	16	120		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		954	2020 x 1.1	1,049
41	US Senate Totals	# Ballots 2020 Primary		1,036	2020 x 1.1	1,140
42	US President Totals	# Ballots 2020 General		7,461	2020 x 1.1	8,207
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.					



3. Estimate of Cost to Hand Count

46	Factor	Primary 3/5	Primary 8/13	General 11/5	Highest	Lowest	Sources
47	Run Time Rounded Up	1.00	1.00	4.00			B-D 35
48	Number of Judges	8	16	120			B-D 36
49	Hourly Rate	\$10.44	\$10.44	\$10.44			City Policy
50	Total Cost to Count	\$84	\$167	\$5,011	\$5,262	\$1,365	Calculated
51	Federal & State	\$84	\$125	\$1,156	\$1,365	\$1,365	Calculated
52	County/City/SD	\$0	\$42	\$3,855	\$3,897	\$0	Calculated
53	Judicial Offices	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	Calculated
54	Cost Per Ballot	\$0.08	\$0.15	\$0.61	\$0.48	\$0.13	

- 55 **Notes:**
- 56 1. This estimate accounts for rounding up of election judge service time to full hours.
 - 57 2. This estimate does not include costs for supplies, equipment or administration.

- 59 **General Notes:**
- 60 1. For At-Large offices the ballot must be sorted for each candidate.
 - 61 2. This analysis is based upon the Piling System of hand counting as per MS 204C.21.
 - 62 3. On November 15, 2023 Anoka County conducted the Arco-Witt re-count for school board.
 - 63 It included 4,393 ballots and took just 5.12 seconds per ballot to count including setup and reporting.
 - 64 4. Oak Grove is served by one school district:
 - 65 St. Francis ISD#15-3 or 4 seats at large in even numbered years (need to count for each candidate)

A FEASIBLE STRATEGY

1. Use tabulation machines as usual and now mandated by State law (M.S. 206.58)
2. Hand count votes immediately after the polls close using Piling System (M.S. 204C.19)
3. Employ a new set of fresh election judges to do this additional task
4. Hand count only competitive offices—usually 10-15 rather than 30-36
5. 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.

Summary | Recommendations

- Hand counting is a global standard the Piling System is a proven method
- Counting only competitive offices is feasible and affordable
- Hand counting is secure and transparent
- Hand counting raises the public's level of confidence in our elections



- ❑ ADOPT RESOLUTIONS to hand count paper ballots via these methods:
 - ❑ By City at precincts after polls close (M.S. 204C.19)
 - ❑ By County at Government Center under Post-Election Review (M.S. 206.89)
 - ❑ By City at City Center under Post-Election Review (M.S. 206.89)

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Local Control through
Local Actions



Mark Cook
Cyber
Security
Expert



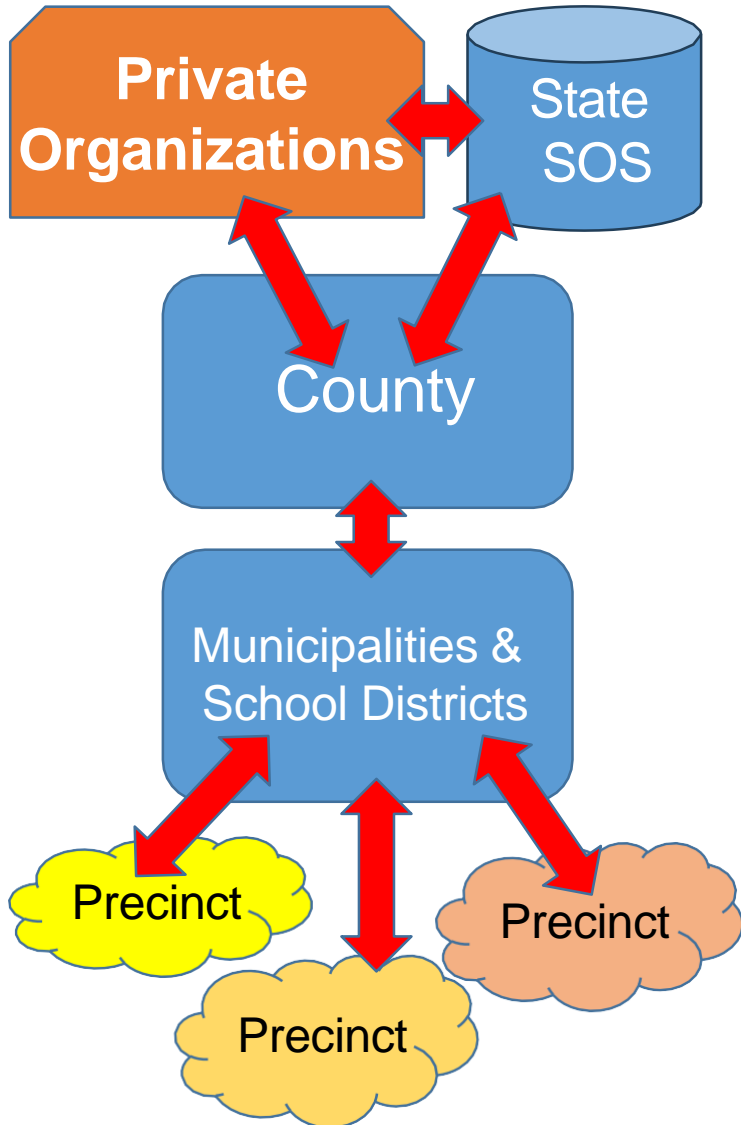
Election Ecosystem: Control

	FREEDOM		DANGER		TYRANNY		FREE AGAIN	
	Precinct	County	State	Corporations	Federal	Precinct	County	
Voter Reg		PAST	CURRENT	CURRENT	PLANNED		FUTURE	
Voter Validation	PAST		CURRENT	CURRENT	PLANNED	FUTURE		
Tabulation	PAST		CURRENT	CURRENT	PLANNED	FUTURE		
Reporting		PAST	CURRENT	CURRENT	PLANNED	FUTURE		
Transparency	HIGH		CLOSE TO NONE		ZERO		100%	

“We need to move forward to a system where our county takes back control of our election system.”—Mark Cook

THE SOLUTION: Locally Controlled Elections

Move From TODAY's Model



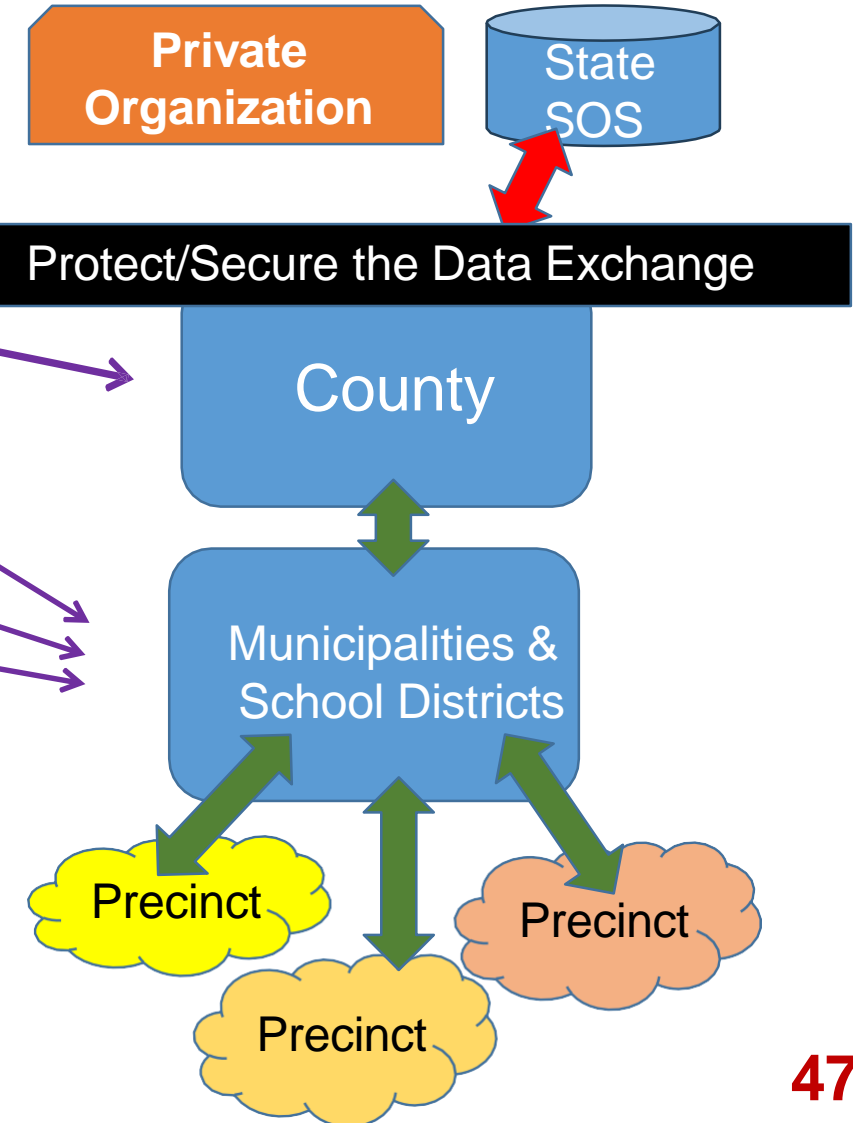
Based on MN Statute



Voter Registration
 Voter Validation
 Tabulation
 Reporting



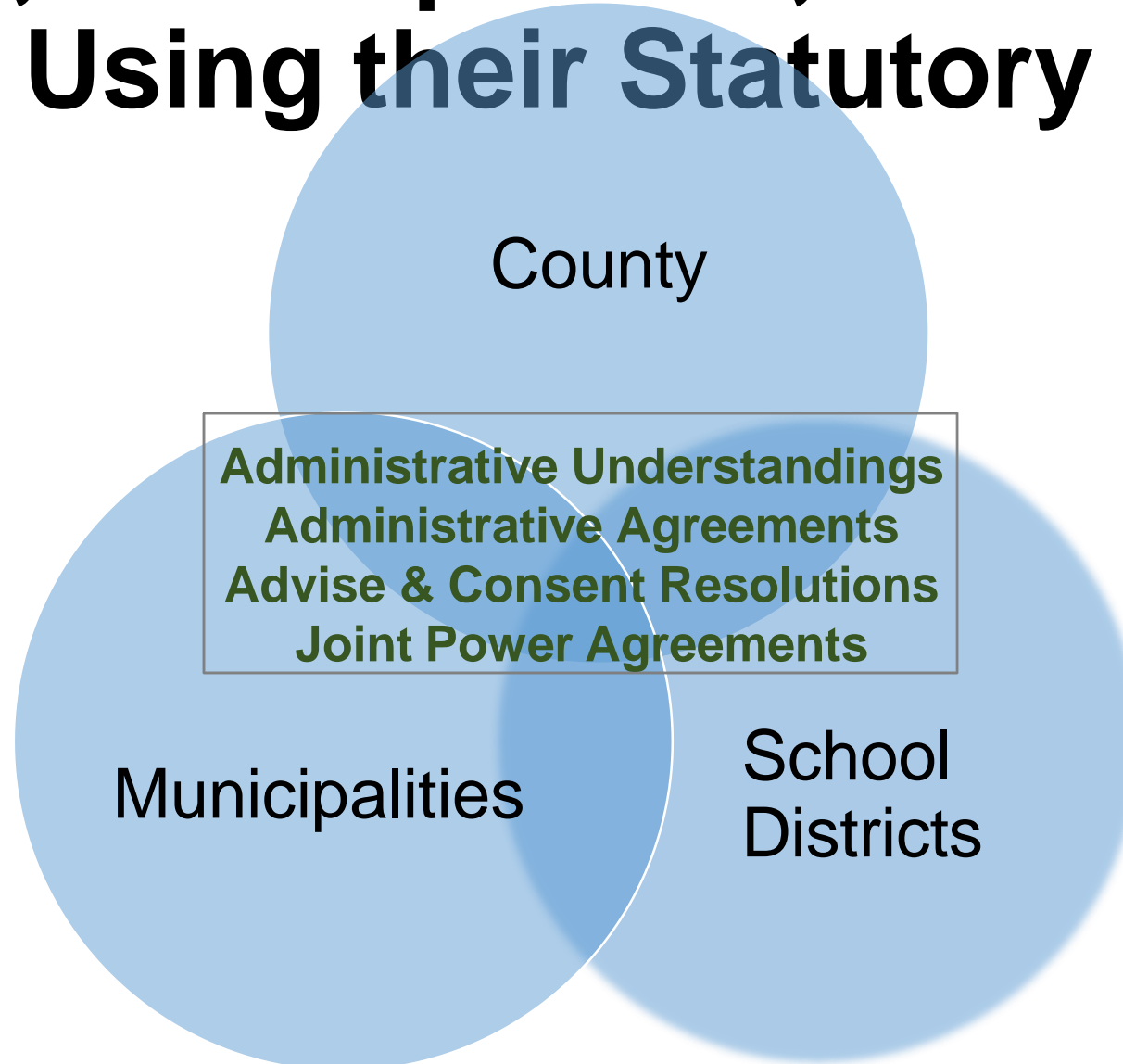
To A SECURE Local Model



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.

CASE STUDY: CITY OF OAK GROVE

SPREADSHEET 1: A Feasible Strategy

- This slide, and the next three, are components of a single spreadsheet.
- This slide computes the number of choices on each ballot for three elections.
- Column 1 is the offices on the ballot.
- Column 2, 3 & 4 are the three elections in 2024.
- The numbers in the boxes are the numbers of offices likely to be competitive.
- Line 19 is the total of choices on each ballot expected to be competitive.

SPREADSHEET 2: Time to Count

- This next slide calculates the time to hand count ballots using 2020 data plus 10%.
- On this section of the spreadsheet different scenarios for number of election judges can determine run time.

SPREADSHEET 3: An Affordable Cost

- This section of the spreadsheet computes the cost to hand count based upon run time x number of judges x hourly rate.
- Line 50 shows the hand count cost for each election is \$84.00, \$167.00 and \$5,011, respectively. These costs are in addition to current election costs.
- Line 54 shows the cost to hand count each ballot for the Presidential Primary (\$0.08), the State Primary in August (\$0.15), and the General Election in November (\$0.61).
- Remember, we are only hand counting competitive races. And election judges can waive payment and volunteer their time unpaid.
- This estimate is based upon the expected number of ballots and other variables in the City of Oak Grove for elections in 2024. More scenarios can be tested.