MEMORANDUM

TO: Anoka County Board of Commissioners and Staff

FROM Anoka County Election Integrity Team (ACEIT)

DATE: February 28, 2023

SUBJECT: Why Anoka County Should Rid Itself of Voting Machines

PRESENTER: Steve Larson

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Introduction:

Opinion polls indicate a growing loss of confidence in electronic tabulation machines. Below are twelve reasons why the County should consider replacing machines with hand counting of votes.

Analysis:

1. Machines can be programmed for cheating. (Lindell movie “Selection Code” about Tina Peters in Mesa CO, Aug. 2022; “Kill Chain: The Cyber War on American Elections”, 2019)
2. Machines can break down. (Nov. 2022, Kari Lake, Maricopa County, AZ)
3. Machines have replaced the vital citizen participation in our election process.
4. Counting votes is not complex math and it does not require machines.
5. Machines centralize elections by connecting all the individual precincts electronically. Elections should be local.
6. Election judges cannot do their job. (Four Coon Rapids judges dismissed Oct. 28, 2022)
7. Elections should be transparent to the public and machines are not transparent; They are a black box.
8. The people do not trust them, and our elections belong to the people.
9. Machines are expensive.
10. The machines require constant software updates, maintenance, and testing.
11. Our current machines are 8 years old and will need to be replaced soon.
12. There are many in Minnesota, across the U.S., and across the world using processes and people rather than machines - and it is highly successful.

Conclusions/Recommendations:

* The County should stop using machines in the elections and, instead, better engage the citizens of Anoka County, as they have and are requesting.
* The County should pursue the establishment of policy and procedures to use paper ballots and hand counts in the 2024 election, which is less expensive than machines AND provides the transparency that the people of Anoka County desire.
* If moving to paper ballots and hand counts is not pursued, the County should provide full transparency and access of election data, including the CVR files, to the people of Anoka County upon request.