MEMORANDUM

TO: Anoka County Board of Commissioners and Staff

FROM Anoka County Election Integrity Team (ACEIT)

DATE: February 28, 2023

SUBJECT: A Report: Hand Counting of Ballot Papers Globally

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Introduction

The Anoka County Election Integrity Team (ACEIT) has researched and prepared a report entitled: “COUNTING THE VOTE: A Report on the Global Standard of Hand Counting Votes.”

Analysis

**Paper ballots are by far the most common form of voting globally.**Votes are cast by manually marking ballots in 209 of the 227 countries and territories.

**Hand counting of ballots is by far the most common tallying method** with only about 10% of countries using electronic voting machines.

This report specifically describes the hand counting process in ten western countries: Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

Conclusion

The reasons these countries hand count “ballot papers” are as follows:
1. Citizens expect transparency and an open public process.

2. Citizens value the tradition of hand counting ballots.

3. Machines were tested in pilot projects but performance standards were not met.

5. Citizens distrust tabulation machines.

6. Citizens trust the laws setting clear procedures for handling “ballot papers.”

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

Administrator, PRT Division Head and Elections Manager.