TO**:** Anoka County Board of Commissioners and Staff

FROM: Anoka County Election Integrity Team (ACEIT)

DATE: March 28, 2023

SUBJECT**:** Voter Registration Rolls\_ERIC Part 3 of 3; Data Received Back from ERIC

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**Introduction:**

* While much data is required of each State/Member according to the ERIC Bylaws, comparatively little appears to be provided in exchange (back to the State).
* As indicated in the presentation titled *ERIC Part 1 of 3; Value-Add to Anoka County Rolls?*, it is clear that the majority of data returned to States are of people that must (per ERIC Bylaws) be reached out to in an effort to solicit voter registration.
* We are requesting the Anoka County Elections & Voter Registration Department and/or County Commissioners evaluate whether the obligation to ERIC is worth the time and effort and whether it truly improves Voter Registration Roll accuracy.

**Considerations:**

* **Purpose of Voter Registration Rolls:** To maintain a list of who is eligible to vote so that only those eligible to vote are allowed to cast their vote according to Laws.
* **Minnesota Voter Registration (SVRS)** 201.021 PERMANENT REGISTRATION SYSTEM.

A permanent system of voter registration by county is established, with a single, official, centralized, interactive computerized statewide voter registration list defined, maintained, and administered at the state level ... The county auditor shall be chief registrar of voters and the chief custodian of the official registration records... The secretary of state is responsible for…administering the centralized system.

* Requests by the ERIC Member (States) must be made to ERIC to receive the “processed data” back from ERIC. According to the ERIC Bylaws this is not an automatic process but must be done at a minimum of every 425 days.
* When the data/list is received by the State from ERIC, per ERIC Bylaws the State is required to reach out to 95% of people listed in the report within specific timeframes before the upcoming election. NOTE: the vast majority of people on the list are those identified as potential registrants (unregistered people in the state) as opposed to people identified as deceased, moved, or are for some other reason no longer eligible.
* The Minnesota State Voter Registration System COA Guide provides instructions used to make updates from the NCOA vendor and from ERIC related to moves. However, it does not appear to address the handling of the EBU’s (Eligible But Unregistered) people. These must be followed up with according to the ERIC Bylaws, mentioned also in the *ERIC Part 2 of 3; Data Sent to ERIC* presentation.
* There are questions about who and how the EBU records are being handled with regard to the Anoka County Voter Registration data.

**Conclusions/Requests:**

* While the State is responsible to maintain the State Voter Registration System, it is the County that is responsible for the accuracy of their data and election results. We have identified Voter Registration Roll accuracy issues in Anoka County.
* We are requesting Anoka County Elections & Voter Registration Department and/or County Commissioners
	+ Identify the frequency data is received back from ERIC
	+ The number of Anoka County people on ERIC’s files sent back to our state that fall into each of these categories:
		- Appear to be deceased
		- Appear to have voted more than once
		- Appear to have voted when ineligible due to a felony
		- Appear to have voted when ineligible due to being underaged
		- Appear to have voted at the wrong precinct
		- Any other categories ERIC might provide that indicate there is an appearance the vote was cast improperly
	+ Calculate the rate of accuracy improvement the ERIC data produces from actual updates made to the Anoka County Voter Registration Rolls from those ERIC files
	+ Determine whether the obligation to ERIC’s contractual bylaws is “value add(ed)” with regard to improving Roll accuracy, considering the vulnerability created by sharing personal data with ERIC and all the entities with whom ERIC shares our data outside their organization
* We are requesting that by 8/30/2023 we receive a report with the findings and determination.

**Links/Resources:**

<https://ericstates.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/ERIC_Bylaws.pdf> ERIC’s Contract with [States] Members; see Exhibits A&B

<https://www.sos.state.mn.us/media/1615/coa-packet.pdf> Minnesota’s State Voter Registration System COA Guide