Memorandum

TO: Anoka County Board of Commissioners and Staff

FROM: Anoka County Election Integrity Team (ACEIT)

DATE: 8/22/2023

SUBJECT: Anoka County elections are not transparent

Good morning,

My name is Jim Lorch, I lived in Anoka County for over 30 years. I have come to know and continue to meet a lot of wonderful people that have a passion for Anoka County. Though I have recently moved to Sherburne County, the relationships that I have built in the past continue to grow.

I want to thank all of you for your service and thank you for allowing me to voice my concern about the lack of election transparency.

**Call to action**: I ask you, the Commissioners of Anoka County to provide a document addressing the concerns mentioned below and closing the gaps to ensure the election process is transparent. I ask that this document be completed, and a copy emailed to me by September 19th, 2023. The urgency is to close the gaps before the elections this November 2023. My address is lorchjim@gmail.com

The three reasons why I believe Anoka County Elections are not transparent:

1. The electronic format is vulnerable.
	* Part of the process is to cast paper ballots. This is transparent.
	* However, the paper ballot data gets converted to electronic format.
	* Poll books are electronic.
		+ Both electronic formats listed above are not transparent and are a security risk.
2. Complete election data is not available.
	* CVR (images) are not available to the public.
3. The results are unverifiable.
	* Anoka County audits 6 of the 128 (4.7%) of the precincts.
		+ This is a very small percentage. Full transparency would be 100%
		+ The Audit process is not complete. It does not include absentee or down race ballots.
	* The CVR data that is available is meaningless. It is basically a bunch of random numbers.

I know firsthand how digital data can be hacked and manipulated. I recently learned from the IRS that I am a victim of identity theft. They could not tell me how it happened. Their process is not transparent.
Most of us have heard about hackers stealing data from fortune 500 companies. I know of a local hospital that was held hostage by ransomware. Recently a friend of mine informed me the company that he manages was held hostage by ransomware.

I truly believe that the employees of the companies mentioned above work hard and have good intentions of doing their jobs correctly as do the Anoka County employees. All organizations can run into security issues if their processes are not transparent.

As a Business Process Analyst, I know from experience that lack of transparency causes gaps. Gaps in a process lead to vulnerability. Where there are vulnerabilities, it is only a matter of time before the process breaks and causes issues that may be small or severe.

Thank you.
Jim Lorch