MEMORANDUM

TO: Anoka County Board of Commissioners and Staff

FROM Anoka County Election Integrity Team (ACEIT)

DATE: July 11, 2023

SUBJECT: Discontinue use of electronic poll pads

PRESENTER: Pam Weber

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Introduction

ACEIT is asking Anoka County to stop using electronic poll pads and return to paper poll pads.

Analysis

Electronic poll pads are connected to statewide voter registration databases and the internet which leaves them vulnerable for hackers to delete or alter voter records. Not only the device itself is open to manipulation, but the statewide databases and other systems connected to them are as well. Electronic poll pads malfunctioning in past elections have caused delays which led to voters leaving without being able to vote.

The law recently passed here in MN mandating the use of electronic voting machines does not include language mandating the use of electronic poll pads. We have successfully used paper poll pads in the not-so-distant past.

Conclusions/Recommendations

Discontinue use of electronic poll pads.

Attachments

See the article from Politico August 31, 2020: (<https://www.politico.com/news/2020/08/31/election-security-hole-406471>)

See the article from Brennan Center for Justice October 18, 2018:

(<https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/analysis-opinion/want-simple-way-increase-election-security-use-paper>)

See the cybersecurity article referenced at the end of my speech from govtec.com:

<https://www.govtech.com/security/most-governments-were-hacked-in-the-past-year-reports-reveal>

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

Administrator, PRT Division Head and Elections Manager.