**Memorandum**

TO: Anoka County Board of Commissioners and Staff

FROM: Anoka County Election Integrity Team (ACEIT)

DATE: 7/27/2023

SUBJECT: Rick Weible hand count practice session in Big Lake, MN on 7/13/2023

**Introduction**

On Thursday July 13 Rick Weible held a class for hand counting votes in Big Lake, MN. We had about 50 people show up on a nice day to sit in a room and just practice for mock elections.

The first hour was spent with Rick going over Minnesota state statutes, administrative rules, and the 2022 Election Judge Guide for hand counting paper ballots.

Then we divided up into teams of 3.

First we sorted the ballots into stacks of 25 ballots which is the state statute.

The middle person examined the ballot and announced the vote for just the 1 race we counted at a time. The other 2 people on each side of the announcer counted the same votes. One counter represented the democrat (red pen) and the other counter represented a republican (blue pen). Each counter filled in a predesigned sheet that made it easier for us to keep track.

When the 25 ballots were complete both counters announced their totals to see if they matched each other to guarantee accuracy.

I have a few observations from this night that we think went really well.

1, We were happy with how fast it was.

2, We were impressed with how accurate this was.

3, It was very transparent and we could literally see who was winning with our own eyes.

4, If we had 50 people for this mock election we can get plenty of volunteers for a real election that matters.

5, The most powerful part is this was just a mock election and yet it made us feel like the people actually owned our elections again. The people got to choose their own government.

**Conclusion**

We need to get back to the people choosing their own government.