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

FROM: Anoka County Election Integrity Team (ACEIT)

DATE: September 26, 2023

SUBJECT**:** Let’s Get Going…Together!

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**Introduction:**

* A month or so ago we shared with you a postcard that has been developed to respond to people who don’t have the ability or availability to research steps that can be taken to make elections more secure in our county.
* As you may recall, the postcard focuses on just six of the areas that we’ve recommended be changed to move us closer to secure and transparent local elections.
* We are pleased to now have 3 more postcards to help people realize what we can do together.
* We are taking these messages to additional forums and venues to equip people with the knowledge that we can make changes at the county, some are even fairly simple, to ensure integrity is in our elections.

**Analysis:**

* People knew that election results didn’t add up, but it seemed impossible to address.
* Wanting to encourage and equip people in our community, we mailed out the “Home Grown Elections” postcards to hundreds of people in our cities, county, school boards, and neighborhoods in the past two months to educate them on some of what is needed to have fair and honest elections.
* These were so well received, that we’ve added three new postcards so that now we have a suite of 5 postcards. This has helped us to cover, in a little more detail, the critical points of:
  + The importance of moving the control of our election process back to our counties instead of the state or, God forbid, federal level.
  + Anytime electronic technology is used, it can be manipulated without anyone being able to see it.
  + Transparency to see and count all paper ballots at the human level is critical to election integrity.
* We’ve expanded our outreach and messaging to include fairs and other events that our community members attend. And we’re confirming that this is a matter that most all citizens care about. People’s response has been great! They want to get involved to help.

**Conclusions/Recommendations:**

* The five postcards created to-date by ACEIT are to empower people with knowledge and recommendations to engage/act. It also encourages them with hope and a plan to return to fair, honest, and transparent elections. This isn’t going away, but rather it is getting bigger as people discover that there are many others who have the same concerns they have regarding secure and transparent elections.
* We continue to request that you engage with us to bring these and other changes to improve upon our current county election procedures and processes. There is still opportunity for you to demonstrate leadership in this arena by being a pioneering county to implement meaningful changes, such as those we have posed over the past 8 months we’ve been sharing what we’ve learned.

**Attachments:**

The five postcards mentioned.