

The background of the slide is a blurred American flag, with the stars and stripes visible. The stars are in the upper left, and the stripes flow across the rest of the image.

# Precinct Size & Paper Poll Book Goals #1 & #5

**Presented by**

**Anoka County  
Election Integrity Team (ACEIT)**

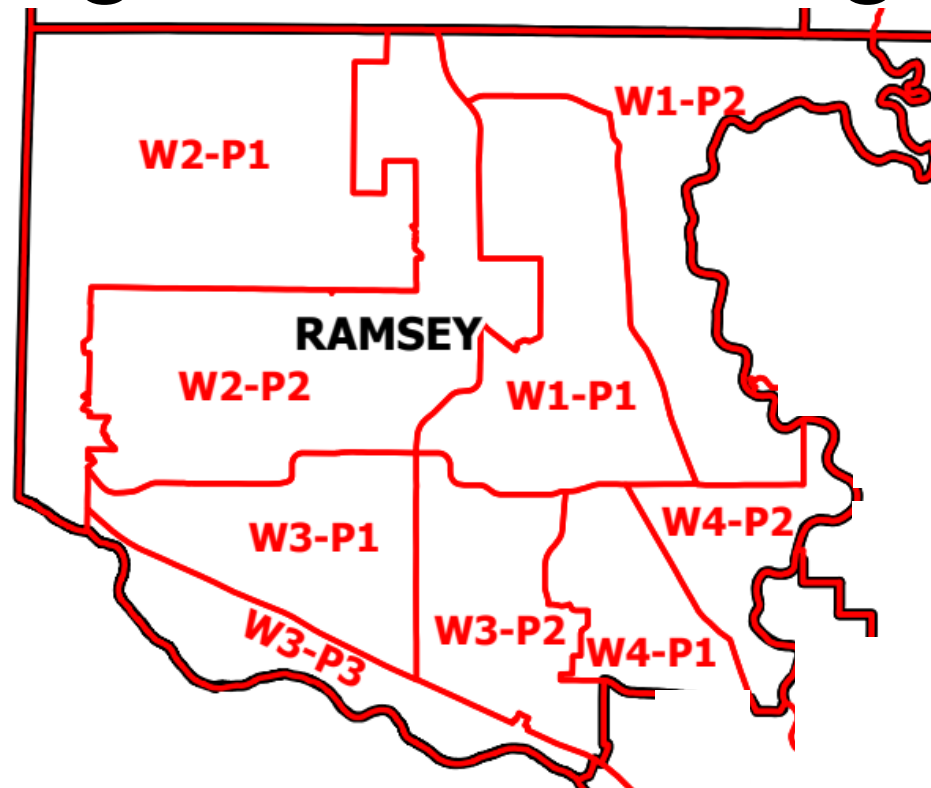
**To**

**City of Ramsey  
September 10, 2024**

# ELECTION INTEGRITY GOAL #1

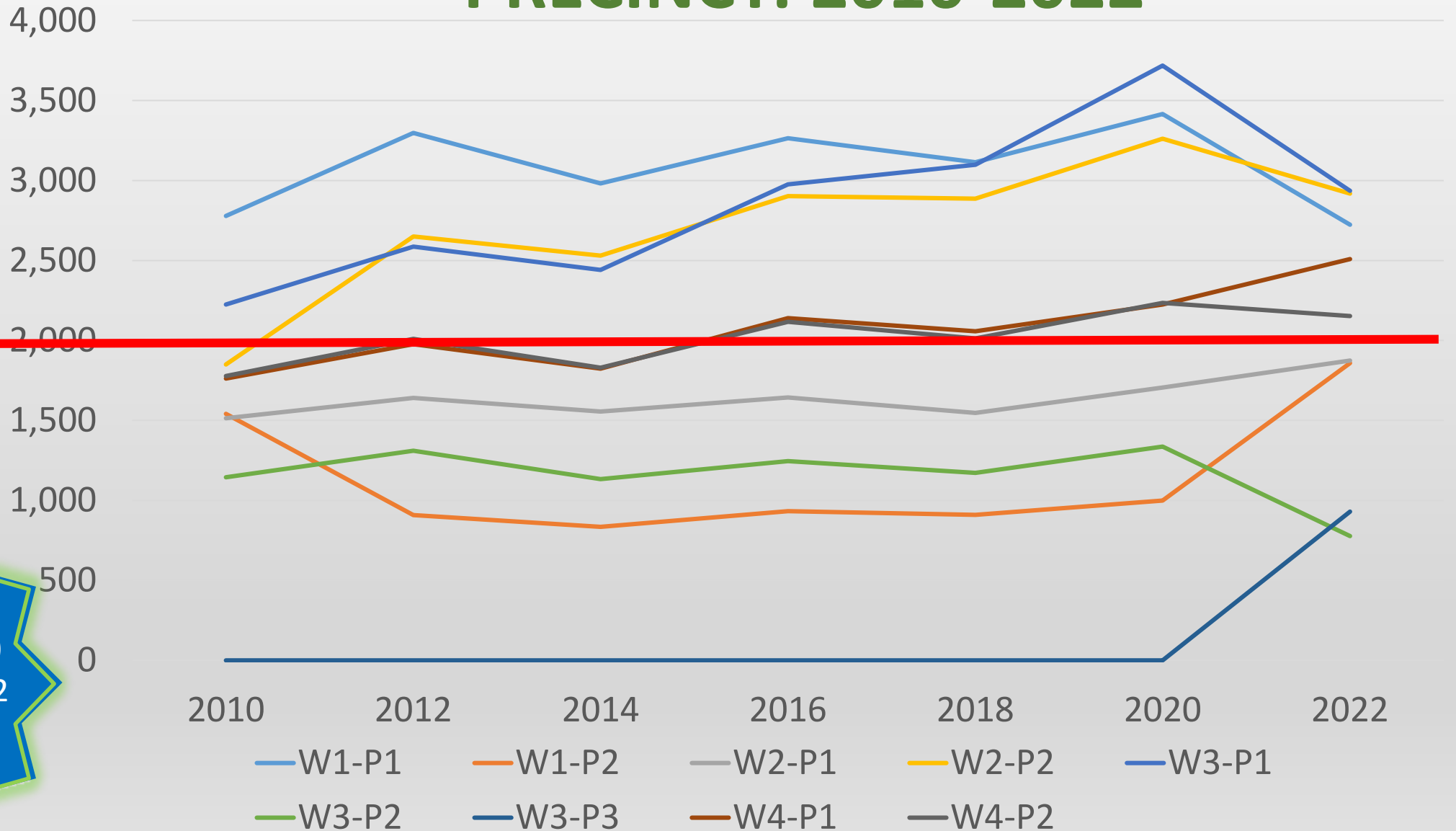
## Small Voting Precincts

- Through Local Management



# CITY OF RAMSEY, REGISTERED VOTERS PER PRECINCT: 2010-2022

MN SOS  
Suggested  
Maximum of  
2,000  
Registered  
Voters Per  
Precinct



Note: 5 of 9 precincts over 2,000 so time to add 1 or 2 more precincts

# CITY OF RAMSEY, NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS PER PRECINCT: 2012-2022

<u>Precinct</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2022</u>
W1-P1	2,778	3,298	2,982	3,265	3,114	3,416	2,723
W1-P2	1,541	908	834	932	909	999	1,859
W2-P1	1,514	1,641	1,556	1,644	1,547	1,705	1,874
W2-P2	1,849	2,650	2,531	2,903	2,886	3,261	2,918
W3-P1	2,224	2,586	2,441	2,976	3,098	3,719	2,936
W3-P2	1,145	1,310	1,133	1,245	1,172	1,336	776
W3-P3	0	0	0	0	0	0	929
W4-P1	1,761	1,977	1,823	2,139	2,058	2,225	2,509
W4-P2	1,778	2,010	1,830	2,116	2,013	2,235	2,153
Total	14,590	16,380	15,130	17,220	16,797	18,896	18,677
Average	1,824	2,048	1,891	2,153	2,100	2,362	2,075

**Since 2010  
multiple precincts  
have exceeded  
Minnesota  
SOS guidance**

# Summary | Recommendations

- Cities are authorized to determine precinct size
- Precincts with <2,000 registered voters are more manageable



- ADOPT A RESOLUTION to limit voting districts to 2,000 registered voters or less

**CITY OF RAMSEY  
RESOLUTION NO. 2024-\_\_\_\_**

**RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING PRECINCT DESIGN POLICIES**

**WHEREAS**, Minnesota Statute 204B.14, subd. 1 empowers: “the governing body of each municipality shall establish the boundaries of the election precincts in the municipality”; and

**WHEREAS**, Minnesota Statute 204B.14 permits municipalities to change the number and boundaries of their precincts at certain times and under certain conditions; and

**WHEREAS**, “unlike elective districts, voting precincts are based on administrative convenience and may contain a large or small population” (*2021 Redistricting Guide*, p.20); and

**WHEREAS**, “while there is no specific threshold that covers all situations statewide, a small percentage of precincts have over 2,000 registered voters” (*2021 Redistricting Guide*, p 19); and

**WHEREAS**, “precincts containing more than 2,000 registered voters can become unwieldy for election administration purposes” (*Guide*, p. 20); and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the City of \_\_\_\_\_ hereby adopts the following policies for establishing the design of voting precincts: No more than 2,000 registered voters per precinct.

Approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, Mayor

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_, City Clerk

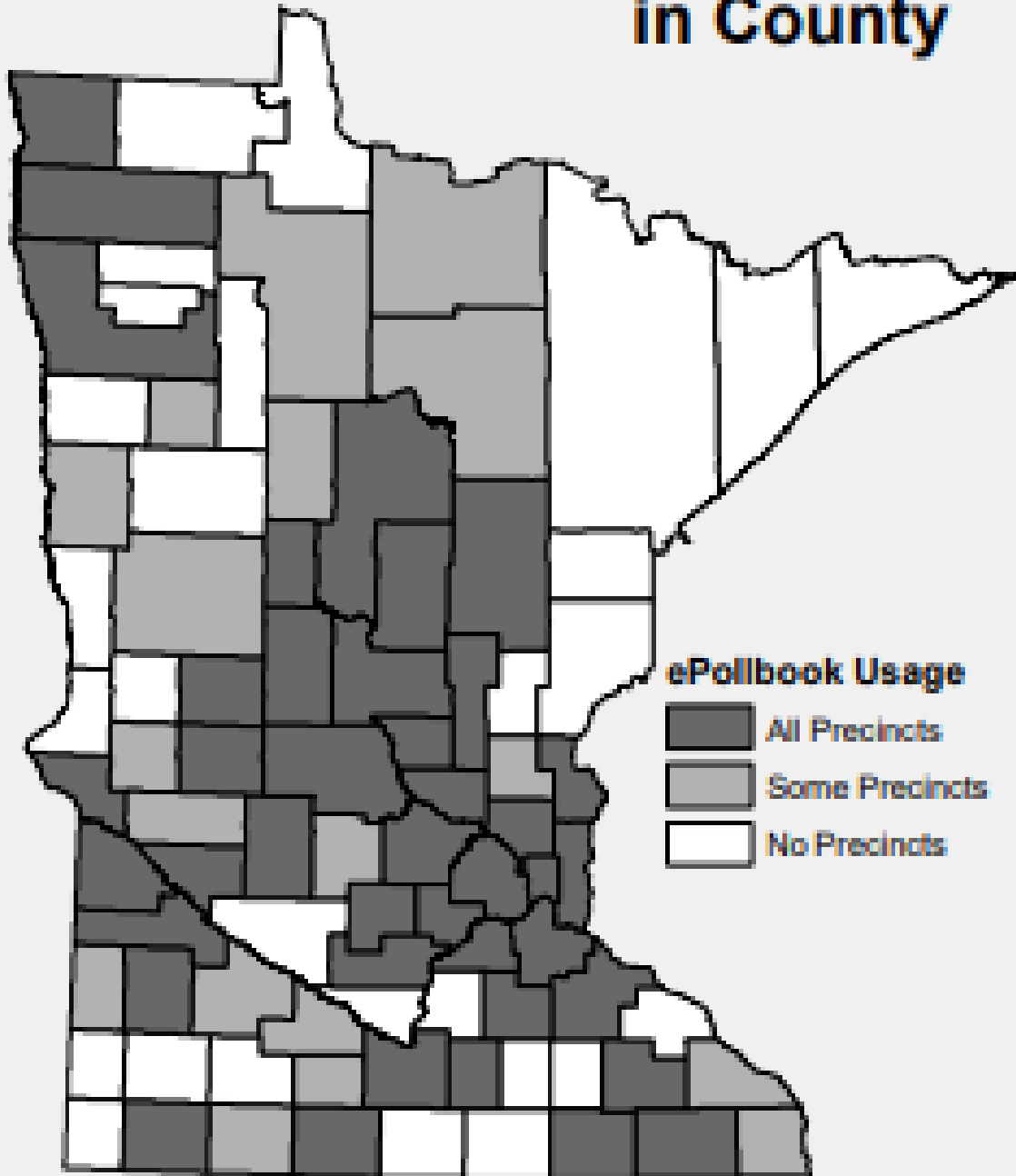
(Seal)

# ELECTION INTEGRITY GOAL #5

## Paper Poll Books

- Through Local Management

## ePollbook Usage in County



The use of electronic  
ePollbooks  
is optional in Minnesota  
Counties and Municipalities

28 Counties do not use ePollbooks  
16 Counties use in some precincts  
45 Counties use in all precincts

# Online Security Risk Points in Poll Pads

## Electronic

- KNOWiNK/BPro/ePulse Cloud INTEGRATED data management
- 129 Verizon SA2100 hot spot devices
- 5 Cisco Meraki MR42 routers
- 22 iSync Cloud drives
- Anoka County's data on Amazon Aurora in Amazon's GovCloud

## Paper

- None

# You Have a Choice

## **201.225 ELECTRONIC ROSTER AUTHORIZATION.**

### **Subdivision 1. Authority.**

A county, municipality, or school district **may** use electronic rosters for any election. In a county, municipality, or school district that uses electronic rosters, the head elections official **may** designate that some or all of the precincts use electronic rosters. An electronic roster must comply with all of the requirements of this section. An electronic roster must include information required in section [201.221](#), subdivision 3, and any rules adopted pursuant to that section.

...

### **Subd. 5. Election day.**

(a) Precincts **may** use electronic rosters for election day registration, to process preregistered voters, or both. The printed election day registration applications must be reviewed when electronic records are processed in the statewide voter registration system. The election judges shall determine the number of ballots to be counted by counting the number of original voter signature certificates or the number of voter receipts.

(b) Each precinct using electronic rosters **shall** have a paper backup system approved by the secretary of state present at the polling place to use in the event that the election judges are unable to use the electronic roster.

# Paper Works!

- All of Anoka County precincts used paper poll books until 2018
- Nearby Isanti County still uses paper poll books in 17 of 19 precincts.  
In fact 29 (1/3<sup>rd</sup> of) MN counties still use paper poll books today
- MN Statute 201.225 Subdivision 5.b. mandates paper poll books at every precinct for every election
  - They must be available as backup
  - They are supplied by county to each precinct before election with most recent list of registered voters.
  - Each precinct maintains their copy onsite on election day

# Paper is More Cost-Effective

## Electronic

- Original capital, license, maintenance cost in 2018 \$602,033
- Average annual expenses \$69,930
  - Software license, maintenance fees \$63,125/yr.
  - Software connectivity license \$1,000/yr.
  - Verizon Wireless Data Plan (hotspots) \$3870-\$7740/yr.
    - \$3,870 in odd years
    - \$7,740 in even years
- Total Anoka County cost for 2018-2023 \$1,029,353
- NOTE: Need for capital upgrade between 2024-2026 \$218,413

## Paper

- Paper and ink  
*(Same as today – as required in MN Statute 201.225)*

CITY OF \_\_\_\_\_  
ANOKA COUNTY  
STATE OF MINNESOTA

**RESOLUTION TO RETURN TO USING ONLY PAPER POLL BOOKS  
AT POLLING PLACES IN 2024 PRIMARY & GENERAL ELECTIONS**

**WHEREAS**, prior to 2018 all municipalities in Anoka County used paper poll books for registration check-in at the polls; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2016 the State of Minnesota issued a report regarding use of electronic poll pads which \_\_\_\_\_; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 27, 2018 Anoka County entered into a contract with KNOWiNK LLC (Contract No. C0005957) for purchase of Elections Electronic Roster System and Services; and

**WHEREAS**, this electronic roster system puts Anoka County election data online with security risk points via the following components:

- KNOWiNK/BPRO/ePulse for Cloud Integrated data management
- Poll pad Units with WiFi 32 GB (over 500 units)
- Wireless Hots spot Devices-Verizon SA2100 (129 units)
- Verizon Wireless Data Plan Activation
- iSync Cloud drives (22 units)
- Cisco Meraki MR42 Routers (5 units)
- ePulse Connectivity Software

Sample Resolution  
to return to use of  
Paper Poll Books--  
electronic copy available

# ELECTION INTEGRITY GOAL #5

## Paper Poll Books

- Through Local Management

## Evidence that Municipalities can opt out of Use of ePollBooks (ipads)

1. The 2013 JPA (County, municipalities, school districts) only covers the purchase, maintenance and licensing of the ES&S vote tabulators (DS200, DS450, DS850).
1. We have found no subsequent amendments to that agreement to cover poll pads.
2. In 2013 poll pads were not a thing, but were authorized and tested about 2015/2016 by the State.
3. There were County level discussions in July-December of 2017 about how many to purchase.
4. Apparently, before the end of 2017, a decision was made to purchase 505 of them to cover all 128 precincts.
5. So far, we have no record of local agreements regarding this decision.
6. The poll pads were purchased in 2018 by Anoka County with no funds from municipalities.
7. As recently as July of 2022, county discussed a capital improvement to replace/upgrade the poll pads at a cost of about \$220,000.
8. The report said that the cost would be born entirely by Anoka County.
9. If there are no formal actions (votes by County and municipalities) and no written and signed agreement(s), then the cities may not be bound.
12. Therefore, we concluded that the poll pads are not mandated to be used by municipalities under a JPA with Anoka County, and they are not mandated by State law. We believe municipalities can opt out of their use.
13. Oak Grove is discussing opting out.

# CAPITAL EQUIPMENT PLAN (CEP)

## Elections Pollbook Replacement

- Anoka County purchased electronic roster Poll Pads from Knowink in 2018.
- The Apple iPad is the primary technology for the Poll Pad system and the current hardware reaches end of support in 2023/2024.
- Costs include replacement cases and the trade-in of the current 505 iPads.

### Benefits

- Reduced voter check-in and registration times
- Immediate absentee record updates to the rosters
- Built-in precinct finder to verify correct polling place locations
- Electronic upload of post-election data
- Property Records & Taxation and Finance will also look into alternative funding sources.

Funding Request for 2023 \$218,413 **Did this happen?**

Source: Anoka County Property Records & Taxation Meeting Agenda, July 19, 2022

- **Recording Revenues** – Real estate market trends and mandated document processing time limits continue to have impacts on and/or create fluctuations to our budget. The fluctuations in document recordings could have an impact on our revenue.
- **TNT Legislative Changes** – Starting in 2023 we will be required to include a supplemental budget/levy information with our TNT mailing for all taxing jurisdictions.
- **Assessment Contracts** – The addition or subtraction of assessment contracts would require us to evaluate staffing levels and would impact our revenue.
- **Tax Court Professional Service Fees** – Although this may not impact the PRT operating budget, we will have a continual need for professional services regarding tax court appraisals.
- **Poll Pads** - Prior to the 2024 elections, we will need to replace our electronic pollbooks. This is 100% county cost and is not shared by cities/schools. Replacement costs are estimated to be \$220,000.
- **Absentee Ballots** – Additional temporary staff and election judges will continue to be needed to process in-person and mail absentee ballots.



# Summary | Recommendations

- Electronic poll pads are not worth the risk
- Returning to using ONLY paper poll books is the safe way to check voters in
- Paper works and it is cheaper
- Many precincts in Minnesota use paper ONLY



- ADOPT A RESOLUTION to return to paper poll books