

Elections Update

Olmsted County Board of Commissioners
September 6, 2022

Pete Giesen, Deputy County Administrator

Mary Blair-Hoeft, Property Records and Licensing Director and Elections Administrator

Luke Turner, Elections Manager

Mike Stier, Information Technology Solutions Security Architect



Building the foundation of a vibrant community

Overview

- Brief Update on Elections 2022
- Key County Election Roles



Olmsted County Election Team

- Significant board investments in Elections:
 - 2016: 1.35 FTE and dozens of volunteers (\$145K budget)
 - 2022: 4.5 FTE + temporary staff (\$1+M budget)
- Current Olmsted County Elections Team
 - Mary Blair-Hoeft - Director of Property Records and Licensing (Olmsted County Elections Administrator)
 - Luke Turner - Elections Manager
 - 2.5 Election Specialists



Update on 2022 Elections

- Processing absentee ballot requests daily
- Continue to Interview and hire provisional staff
- Ballot proofing
- Evaluating each precinct supply tote and replenishing
- Continue updating registration roster
- Preparing absentee envelope materials to send on September 23rd
(Currently approximately 3750 Absentee requests)
- All overseas ballots with applications must be sent by September

23rd





County Key Election Roles

- Process voter registration applications.
- Ballot layout and printing.
- Apply or remove challenges to voter records.
- Purchase and maintain supplies and election equipment, including accessible voting equipment.
- Program and test all voting equipment.
- Administer absentee balloting.
- Train and certify election judges.
- Administer health care facility absentee voting.
- Forward election violations to law enforcement for investigation.
- Train and certify city, township, and school district local election officials.
- Compile election results and transmit to the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State.
- Conduct post-election review.

Training and processes



Becoming an election judge

- Election judges are selected and hired by the city or township.
- Training
 - Election judge training - Two hours, each cycle
 - Head judge training - One hour, each cycle
 - Poll pad training - 1.5 hours (recommended for all judges, required for roster/registration)
 - Ballot board - Members of the ballot board receive an additional one hour of training
 - Health care - 1 hour, each cycle



Voter registration

Olmsted County elections processes voter registration applications from:

- Paper applications returned by mail or in person, online applications, the department of vehicle services, and from election day registration

The information is then verified using:

- Social Security last-4 versus Social Security Office
- Driver's license numbers are compared to the Department of Vehicle Services
- Address using postal verification cards



Additional roster maintenance

- **Challenges**

- Postal return – Returned election mail
- Felony challenges – Daily/monthly from MN Department of Corrections
- Guardianship – Daily court updates

- **Inactivations**

- Reports of deceased voters from the Department of Health
- Reports of those who have moved
- Annual list maintenance



Accuracy and Security



Election accuracy and integrity measures

- Paper ballots
- Ballot storage, inventory, and daily ballot reconciliation
- Ballot handling procedures
- Statewide Voter Registration System (SVRS)
- Postal verification cards (PVCs)
- Tabulation count verifications, pre-canvass verification



Security measures

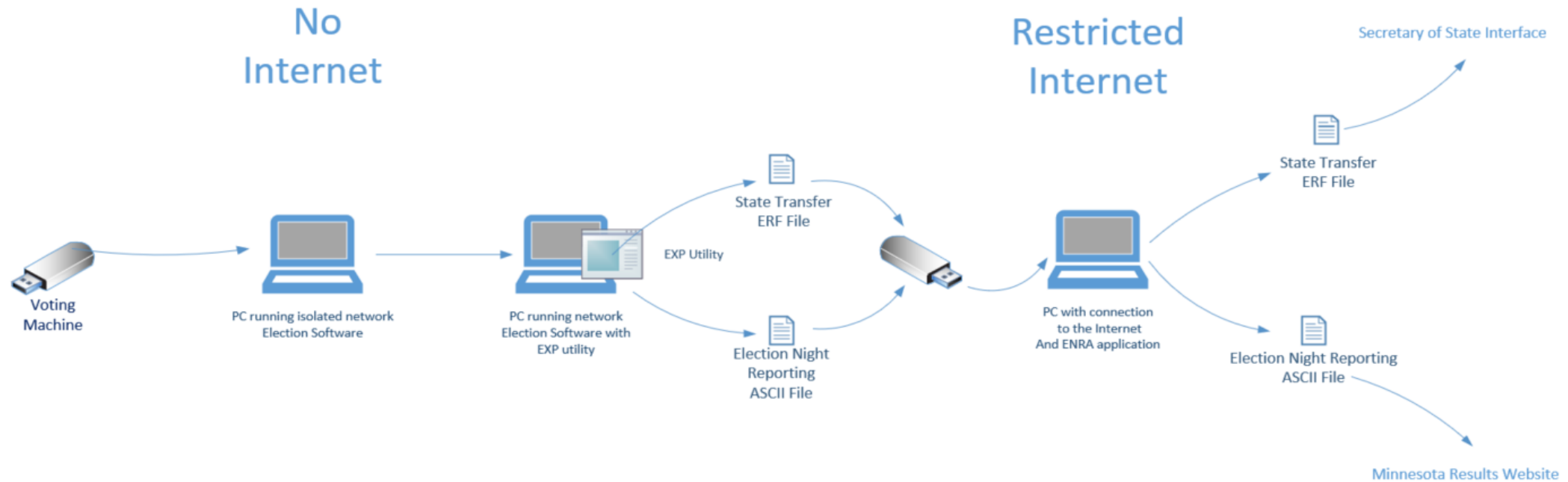
- Physical
 - Two-person ballot procedures
 - Lock storage and key card limiting access
 - Department of Homeland Security physical assessment
- Partners
 - Local law enforcement
 - Olmsted County emergency preparedness
 - Olmsted County Information and Technology Solutions
 - Office of the Secretary of State
 - Homeland Security



Cyber Security measures

Single purpose machines
Input validation at each step

Processing completed 'offline'
Upload via a dedicated server



Preparation of supplies & election equipment



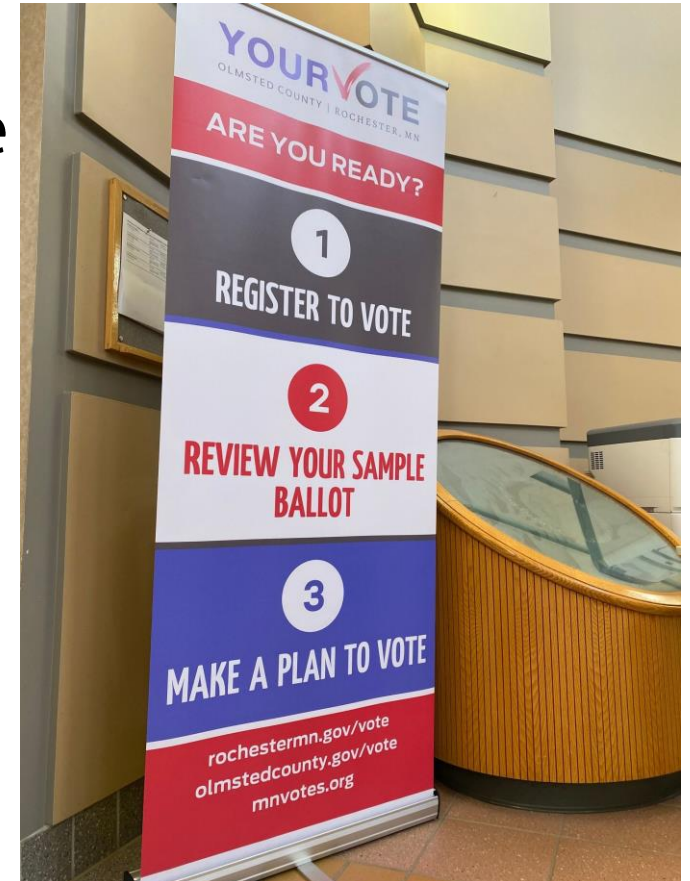
Ballot preparation

- Ballot preparation – Completed by vendor
- Ballot proofing
 - Olmsted County Elections proofs federal, state, and county races
 - Municipalities and school districts proof their corresponding races
- Ordering
 - Olmsted County Elections ensures adequate ballot supplies for both absentee voting and Election Day voting



Supplies & election equipment

- The Secretary of State's Office is responsible for certifying election equipment for use in the State of Minnesota.
- Olmsted County Elections purchases equipment, coordinates maintenance, completes thorough testing, and orders supplies.





Equipment

- Assistive voting
 - AutoMARK
- Tabulation
 - DS850
 - DS200
- Electronic rosters
 - Poll pad

Testing and processes



Equipment - Preliminary Testing

- Multi-week process and hundreds of staff hours
- Tens of thousands of uniquely market ballots processed
- Results must match 100% to expected outcomes.



Equipment - Upload testing

- Test results are uploaded to the state in the same manner they will be uploaded on election night.
- Complete multiple practice uploads to the state. We compare uploaded results to the tabulation results. Match must be 100%.



Public accuracy testing (PAT)

- A sampling of precincts.
- Reflects one precinct from the following races that are on the ballot:
 - Each congressional district
 - Each legislative district
 - Each county commissioner district
 - Each ward
 - Each school district
- These are tested with the option for public viewing.
- Results must be a 100% match to expected outcomes. (M.S. 206.83)



Voting absentee & ballot board

- A ballot board consists of election judges trained in the handling of absentee ballots. (M.S. 204B.19 to 204B.22)
- Judges must be of different major political parties. (Minnesota has four.)
- The board may include deputy county auditors or deputy city clerks who have received training on absentee processing and counting.
- Two or more members of the ballot board examine each signature envelope. The envelope is marked accepted or rejected. (M.S. 203B.121 and M.R. 8210.2450)



End of day procedures

- Election judges from each polling place bring their results to Olmsted County Elections.
- Results are securely uploaded to the Secretary of State's Office. The transmission pathway is secured and not connected to the internet when not transmitting.
 - Results are verified between the uploaded results and the paper tabulation receipts and election judge summary statements to ensure results were transmitted correctly before the canvass (certification) of election results.



Canvass

Unofficial results

- Election night results are unofficial. Following election day, county election officials audit and proof vote totals to ensure accuracy.

County canvassing board

- Every county establishes a county canvassing board of five members. The canvassing board reviews the official vote abstract and certifies accuracy.
- Each municipality and school district has its own canvassing board to certify results in those races.

State canvassing board

- The state canvassing board is responsible for canvassing and certifying the results of all statewide elections and also has five members.



Post election review

- [Minnesota Statute 206.89](#) states that after every state general election, Minnesota counties perform a post-election review of election results returned by the optical scan ballot counters used in the state.
- The review is a hand count of the ballots for each eligible election (U.S. President, U.S. Senator, U.S. Representative, and Governor) in the selected precincts compared with the results from the voting system used in those precincts.



Conclusion

Olmsted County Elections is dedicated to ensuring the integrity and accuracy of our elections. We are committed to maintaining the foundation of democracy in 2022 and going forward.

Thank you.



2022 General Election

Tuesday, November 8, 2022

www.olmstedcounty.gov/residents/elections-voting

