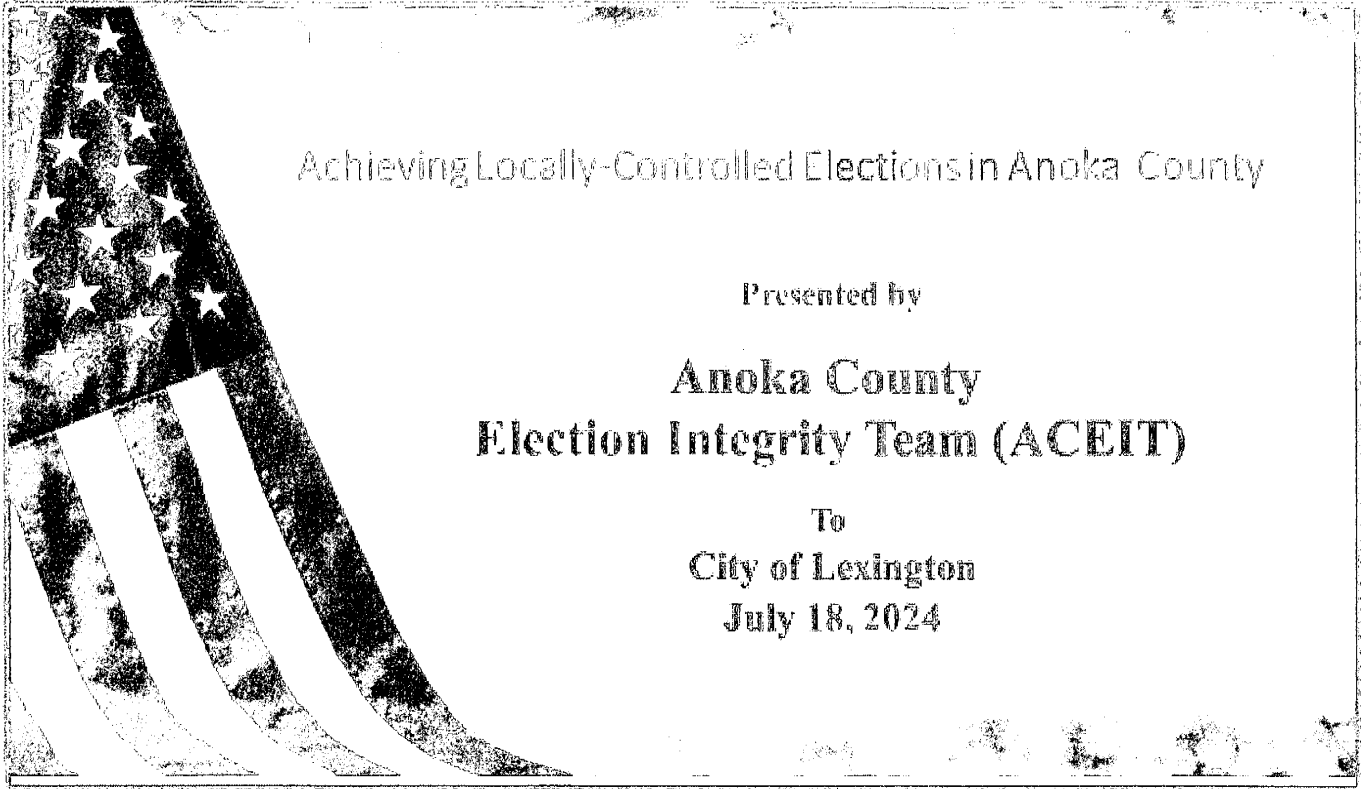


**CITY OF LEXINGTON  
WORKSHOP AGENDA  
Thursday, August 15, 2024  
Immediately following Council meeting  
City Hall**

- 1. Call to Order:** Mayor Grote
- 2. Roll Call:** DeVries – Murphy – Winge - Benson
- 3. Discussion Items:**
  - A. Discuss Presentation by the Anoka County Election Integrity Team (ACEIT) **pp. 1-10**
  - B. Discuss 2025 Preliminary Budget & Preliminary Levy **pp. 11**
- 4. Staff Input**
- 5. Council Input**
- 6. Adjourn**

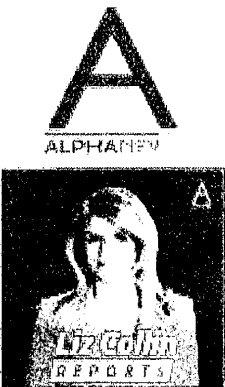


# Achieving Locally-Controlled Elections in Anoka County

Presented by

## Anoka County Election Integrity Team (ACEIT)

To  
City of Lexington  
July 18, 2024



### EXCLUSIVE: 'We are election verifiers': Anoka citizen group makes progress on local election reform

Their group of four has grown to more than 20. From professionals in the medical field to engineers, accountants and IT, their diverse skills have allowed them to dig in

By Liz Gohm July 1, 2024



Two Anoka County cities have taken action to verify votes down the ballot by hand counting at the Post-Election Review, others are evaluating the same



Derek Lind

"It's a grass roots movement"



Brenda Miller

"People are beginning to listen"



Robert Kirchner

"We are election verifiers"



## ELECTION INTEGRITY GOALS

1. Small Voting Precincts
2. Secured Election Judge Data
3. Verified Registered Voters
4. Validated Paper Ballots
5. Paper Poll Books
6. Hand-Counted Paper Ballots

2

## WHY HAND COUNT?

Post-Election Review (PER) hand count does not include:

- Presidential Primary
- State Primary
- General Election
  - MN offices
  - County offices
  - Municipal offices
  - School board offices
  - Questions on the ballot

NO AUDITS FOR  
DECADES

BALLOT EVIDENCE  
DESTROYED AFTER  
22 MONTHS

7

## WHY CONDUCT A POST-ELECTION REVIEW (PER)?

Mission: To protect the votes of your citizens by checking the accuracy of the machine counts in order to enhance security and transparency and to build voter confidence.

### What your peers are saying:

Weston Rolf, Mayor City of Oak Grove: *"Nobody can confirm that the voting machine counted the ballots correctly in Election Day. It is important to me as your mayor that your vote counted."*

Deb Musgrove, Ramsey City Council: *"we value double checking everything in our society so why wouldn't we double check the counting of our votes."*

Another Mayor said: *"We spend millions on our budget so we can afford a few thousand dollars to hand count to verify our votes."*

### What is PER?

The post-election review (PER) is a manual recount (or "audit") of the paper ballots of randomly-selected precincts for specific offices following each state general election. It compares the hand count of votes with the results from the machines in order to determine accuracy within defined standards. The precincts and offices to be counted is determined by the County Canvassing Board which meets 3-8 days after the general election. The hand count takes place between 11 and 18 days after the general election (206.89).

### Municipalities can request to add precincts & offices

- a. Determine number of precincts and offices to hand count (see below)

- b. Calculate time and cost(see calculator below) based upon:
  - i. number of precincts and offices to be hand counted
  - ii. estimated or known number of ballots in each precinct
  - iii. hourly rate of pay to election judges if not waived
- c. Adopt resolution to request inclusion in PER (see templates below)
- d. Send resolution to county auditor or elections manager
- e. Provide election judges to hand count
- f. Cooperate with county during hand count
- g. Pay election judges

## County can facilitate requests by expanding sample

- a. This request will be considered by County Canvassing Board. This board consists of five members: two county commissioners, the County Auditor, the County District Administrator, and Mayor of the largest city in the County). There is some flexibility in that each member can appoint a designee to appear for them and/or the County Auditor can appoint an eligible voter in the County to fill any vacancy. (MS 204C.31).
- b. The Canvassing Board must meet 3 to 8 days after the November 5, 2024 election, so between November 8-13. They make the decision about how many precincts are randomly drawn and how many offices are included (MS 204C.33 as amended in 2024).
- c. The Post-Election Review (PER) is held 11 to 18 days after the November 5, 2024 elections, so between November 16-23 (MS 206.89).
- d. Each municipality involved in the hand count provides election judges to conduct the count and pays them (MS 206.89, Subd. 9).
- e. The County elections department trains and supervises the hand count.
- f. The method of hand counting is the Piling System (MS 204C.21) and re-count protocols (204C.361).

- g. There are provisions in Statutes to deal with any deviants between the machine count on election day and the hand count under the PER (MS 206.89, Subd. 5).

## Statutory Authority

- a. PER authorized & required: Sec. 206.89 MN Statutes
  - i. Option to expand precincts (MS 206.89, Subd. 2)
  - ii. Option to expand offices (MS 206.89, Subd. 3)
- b. Hand Count Method is Piling System: Sec. 204C.21 MN Statutes
- c. County Canvassing Board: Sec. 204C.31 MN Statutes
- d. PER Guide: 2022 Post-Election Review Guide (state.mn.us)
- e. Sample hand count time & cost calculation (see below)
- f. Sample resolutions: Oak Grove (4/29/2024) & Ramsey (6/11/2024)

### A FEASIBLE STRATEGY

- Use tabulators as mandated by State law
- Conduct Expanded Post-Election Review (PER)
- Hand count votes only for competitive offices
- The time & cost can be calculated

(Upon request, ACEIT will provide this Excel spreadsheet on USB)

SEE LEXINGTON 2024 HAND COUNT CALCULATOR PER PRECINCT BELOW

	A	B	C	D	E
1	<b>CITY OF LEXINGTON PER HAND COUNT CALCULATION</b>				
2	<b>1. Determine Number of Offices or Counts</b>				
3	<b>Office</b>	<b>MIN</b>	<b>MAX</b>	<b>On Ballot</b>	<b>Contested or Not</b>
4	US President	1	1	1	Always contested
5	US Senator	1	1	1	Always contested
6	US Representative	1	1	1	Always contested
7	MIN Senator	0	0	0	None in 2024
8	MIN Representative	1	1	1	Usually contested
9	County Board	0	0	1	Not up until 2026
10	Mayor	1	1	1	May not be contested
11	council (2)	4	4	4	May not be contested
12	School Board	0	6	6	May not be contested
13	Soil & Water Conservation	0	1	1	Usually not contested
14	Judicial (Supreme, Appeals, District)	0	0	24	Usually not contested
15	Other: Questions	0	0	?	Always contested
16	<b>Total Number of Counts Per Ballot</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>41</b>	

17 City Council and School Board seats which are elected at large when contested require  
 18 a count or ballot sort for each candidate. For example, if the voter selects 2 of 4  
 19 council members, then each ballot is sorted 4 times. Likewise, if a voter selects 3 of 6  
 20 or 4 of 8 school board members, then the ballot must be sorted/counted 6 or 8 times.

22 **2. Determine Time and Cost**

			<b>Sources</b>
23	Number of offices or Counts	9	16 Total from estimator above
24	Number of ballots in precinct	1494	1494 Use actual 2020 ballot count
25	Total votes/sorts (offices x Ballots)	13446	23904 Calculated
26	Time to process each vote (seconds)	6	6 Known from time studies
27	Total Seconds (votes x 6 seconds)	80676	143424 Calculated
28	Total Hours (total seconds/3600)	22.41	39.84 Calculated
29	2-person judge team (hours x 2)	44.82	79.68 Calculated
30	Election Judges hourly rate of pay	\$12.00	\$12.00 Estimated
31	Total Cost (judge team hours x rate)	\$538	\$956

32 \*Source: *Words-On Elections*, Nancy Tobl, 2010, pp 92-93. This time includes judge training  
 33 organizing work, sorting, stacking, counting and tallying of votes on all ballots.

35 **Directions for use:**

36 **The calculator above is set up to change based upon your inputs.**

- 37 1. In Column B Rows 4-15 enter the offices to hand count.
- 38 2. In Column B, Row 23 enter the number of ballots in each precinct estimated or known.
- 39 3. In Column B, Row 29 enter the election judges hourly rate of pay.
- 40 This set of data will produce a cost estimate.

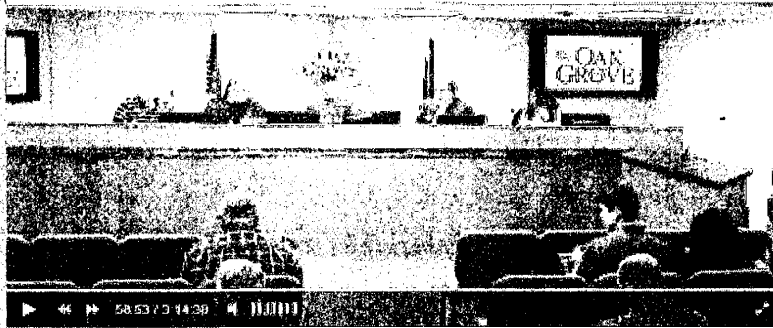
**Disclaimer:** this estimate reflects an approximate cost for hand counting by election judges and does not include other potential administrative costs.

(Upon request, ACEIT will provide this Excel spreadsheet on USB)



**City Council votes 5-0 to hand count all four precincts and all competitive offices in November Election under Post-Election Review (PER)**

April 29, 2024



**Rolf for Oak Grove**  
8m · 3

There has been a lot of discussion about election integrity over the years and I think it is time to make sure things are being done correctly.

I requested to have this resolution added to the council agenda this past Monday as a discussion item and the resolution passed 5-0!

This signed resolution will be sent to Anoka County requesting they conduct a post-election review on our four precincts this November. It is important to me as your mayor that your vote counts.

I would like to thank the council for supporting this resolution.



RESOLUTION 24-055

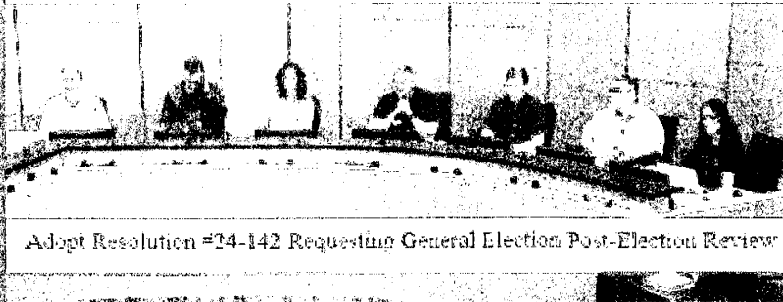
CITY OF OAK GROVE  
COUNTY OF ANOKA  
STATE OF MINNESOTA

REQUESTING 2024 GENERAL ELECTION POST-ELECTION REVIEW



**City of Ramsey  
Agenda  
Regular City Council  
Tuesday, June 11, 2024**

**City of Ramsey seeks to hand count votes during the 2024 Post-Election Review**



Ramsey City Council voted 7-0 to hand count 2/3 of their 9 precincts under Post-Election Review (PER) for the 2024 General Election. This will include all offices with more than one candidate, with the exception of judicial offices.



CITY OF OAK GROVE RESOLUTION

**RESOLUTION 24-055**

**REQUESTING 2024 GENERAL ELECTION POST-ELECTION REVIEW**

**WHEREAS**, the City council of the City of Oak Grove desires to have a Post-Election Review (PER) conducted on the results of all four of its precincts for the 2024 general election pursuant to Minnesota Statute 206.89; and

**WHEREAS**, PER are conducted at precincts that must be chosen by lot by the Anoka County Canvassing Board, but there is not a limit on the number of lot selections that may be performed and there is not a restriction on establishing the lot from which the selection is made; and

**WHEREAS**, a PER is required to include counting the votes for President or Governor, United States Senator, and United State Representative; and the county-appointed post-election review official may conduct a PER of votes cast for additional offices; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council desires to have a PER performed for all four of its precincts and to include all offices for which there is more than one candidate;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RAMSEY, ANOKA COUNTY, STATE OF MINNESOTA, as follows:**

1. In the event an Oak Grove election precinct is selected for a Post-Election Review (PER) of the 2024 general election, the City Council requests that the Anoka County Canvassing Board perform a second lot selection that includes only the other three precincts in Oak Grove and select three additional precincts.
2. In the event an Oak Grove election precinct is not selected for a PER of the general election, the City Council request that the Anoka County Canvassing Board perform a second lot selection that includes only the four precincts in Oak Grove and select four precincts.
3. The City Council request that any PER of an Oak Grove precinct include all elections in which there are more than one candidate.

Adopted by the City Council this 29<sup>th</sup> day of April 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk (Seal)

CITY OF RAMSEY RESOLUTION  
RESOLUTION #24-142

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING GENERAL ELECTION POST-ELECTION REVIEW**

**WHEREAS**, the City council of the City of Ramsey desires to have a Post-Election Review (PER) conducted on the results of two-thirds of its precincts for general elections pursuant to Minnesota Statute 206.89; and

**WHEREAS**, PER are conducted for precincts that must be chosen by lot by the Anoka County Canvassing Board, but there is not a limit on the number of lot selections that may be performed and there is not a restriction on establishing the lot from which the selection is made; and

**WHEREAS**, a PER is required to include counting the votes for President or Governor, United States Senator, and United State Representative; and the county-appointed post-election review official may conduct a PER of votes cast for additional offices; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council desires to have a PER performed for two-thirds of its precincts and to include all offices for which there is more than one candidate but exclude all judicial offices.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RAMSEY, ANOKA COUNTY, STATE OF MINNESOTA, as follows:**

1. In the event a Ramsey election precinct is selected for a Post-Election Review (PER) of the general election, the City Council requests that the Anoka County Canvassing Board perform a second lot selection that includes only the other precincts in Ramsey and select additional precincts to reach the threshold of two-thirds.
2. In the event a Ramsey election precinct is not selected for a PER of the general election, the City Council request that the Anoka County Canvassing Board perform a second lot selection that includes only Ramsey precincts and selects two-thirds of the precincts.
3. The City Council request that any PER of a Ramsey precinct include a review of the results of all state, county, and city offices, except judicial races, that include more than one candidate.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Councilmember, and upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof:

and the following voted against the same:

and the following abstained:

and the following were absent:

Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted by the Ramsey City Council this the 11 day of June, 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk.

# LEXINGTON SAMPLE RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION # \_\_\_\_\_

## RESOLUTION REQUESTING GENERAL ELECTION POST-ELECTION REVIEW

**WHEREAS**, the City council of the City of Lexington desires to have a Post-Election Review (PER) conducted on its precinct for general elections pursuant to Minnesota Statute 206.89; and

**WHEREAS**, PER are conducted for precincts that must be chosen by lot by the Anoka County Canvassing Board, but there is not a limit on the number of lot selections that may be performed and there is not a restriction on establishing the lot from which the selection is made; and

**WHEREAS**, a PER is required to include counting the votes for President or Governor, United States Senator, and United State Representative; and the county-appointed post-election review official may conduct a PER of votes cast for additional offices; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council desires to have a PER performed for its precinct and to include all offices for which there is more than one candidate but exclude all judicial offices.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LEXINGTON, ANOKA COUNTY, STATE OF MINNESOTA, as follows:**

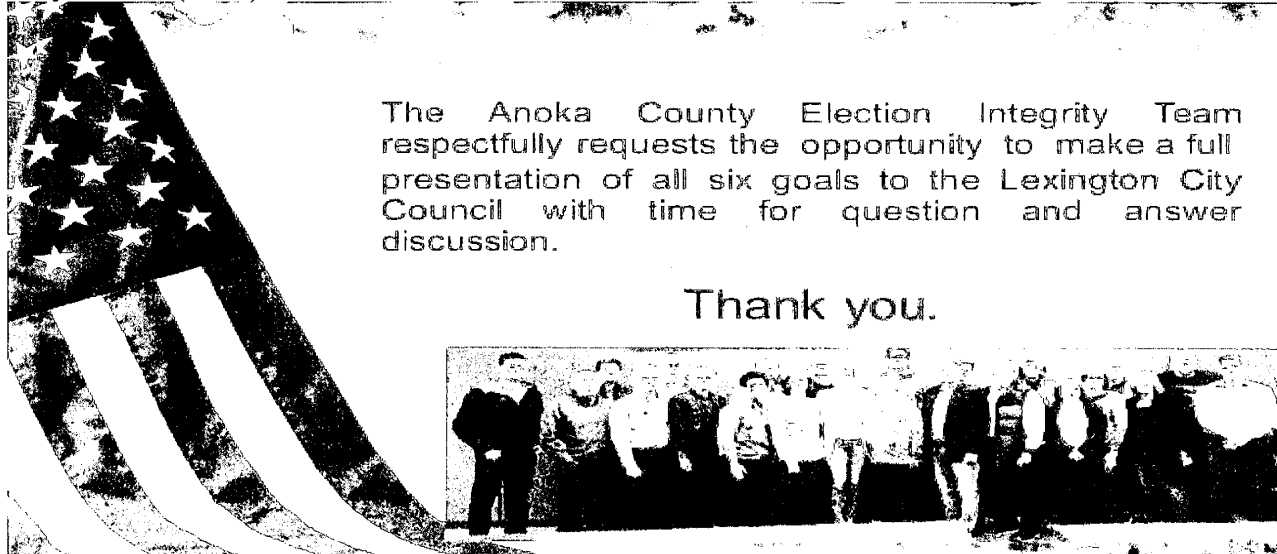
1. In the event that the precinct in Lexington is not selected for a PER of the general election, the City Council request that the Anoka County Canvassing Board include the Lexington precinct in the 2024 PER.
3. The City Council request that the PER of the Lexington precinct include a review of the results of all state, county, and city offices, except judicial races, that include more than one candidate.

Adopted by the City Council this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk (Seal)



**To:** Lexington Mayor and Council Members  
**From:** Bill Petracek, City Administrator; Hristo (Chris) Galiov, Finance Director  
**Date:** August 8, 2024  
**Re:** Preliminary Budget and Levy Discussion

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## **Preliminary 2025 Proposed Budget Highlights**

Attached are the proposed capital improvements/equipment/outlay and increased budgetary items for the 2025 budget for your review prior to the City Council meeting. I will have a more detailed presentation at the workshop to discuss setting the preliminary levy and the progress of the police budget formula negotiations.

<u><b>Administration</b></u>	<u><b>Fund</b></u>	<u><b>Amount</b></u>
1. Website Updates	Cable	<b>\$2,500</b>
2. City Hall Berm and Landscaping	General	<b>\$6,000</b>
3. Accounting Utility Billing/Payroll Software	Capital	<b>\$7,500</b>
4. Network access devices	Cable	<b>\$800</b>
5. Computer Replacements	Cable	<b>\$2650</b>

### **Fire**

1. Various equipment as needed	Equipment Replacement	<b>\$50,000</b>
2. Duty crew (two days/week)	General	<b>\$10,000</b>
(The details of this item is still under consideration by the fire chief)		

### **Streets**

1. Discuss Restwood Road Mill and Overlay

### **Parks**

1. Memorial Park – Light Pole Relocation	Capital – Parks	<b>\$8000</b>
2. Memorial Park – Field 1 irrigation system	Capital-Parks	<b>\$21,000</b>
3. Equipment – Zero Turning Radius Mower	Capital – Parks	<b>\$13,500</b>

### III. Capital improvement projects – Enterprise Funds

	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<b><u>Liquor</u></b>		
1. Gravity Flow Beer Racking (Cooler door upgrade)	Liquor	\$5,000
2. Public Address system	Liquor	\$3,000
<b><u>Storm sewer</u></b>		
1. Catch basin replacement – ( 2 catch basins \$6,500/replacement	Storm	\$13,000
2. Accounting Utility Billing/Payroll Software	Storm	\$2,500
<b><u>Water</u></b>		
1. Accounting Utility Billing/Payroll Software	Water	\$10,000
<b><u>Sewer</u></b>		
1. Accounting Utility Billing/Payroll Software	Sewer	\$10,000
<b>Total amount for Accounting Utility Billing/Payroll Software</b>		<b>\$30,000</b>