


Carver County 2022 Elections Update

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Agenda

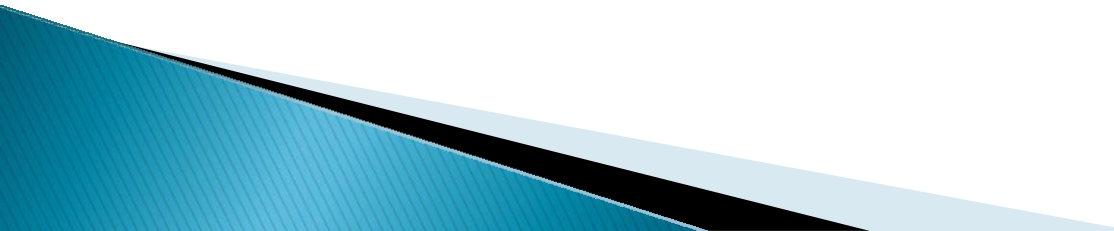
1. Opening Remarks – Board Chair Degler
 2. MN Elections High-Level Overview – Dave
 - A. Federal/State Legal Hierarchy
 - B. Election Security
 - C. List of Statutory Checks/Balances
 - D. Post-Election Review/Audit
 - E. Election Outcomes
 3. Carver County Elections - Kendra
 - A. Absentee Ballots Volume
 - B. Absentee Ballot Box
 - C. Absentee Ballot Board
 - D. “Elections Results” vs. “Voter History”
 - E. Ballot Image Capture
 4. Public Input
 5. Board Discussion
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Opening Remarks

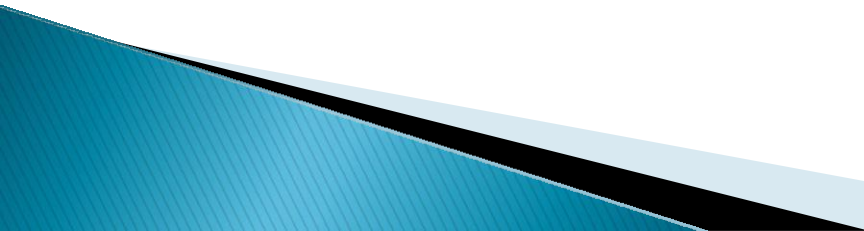
▶ Overall Purpose:

- ▶ Share information about Carver County elections
- ▶ Not right forum to debate Federal, State election laws, etc.

▶ Workshop reminder - Board members:

- ▶ Can ask questions, discuss, provide staff direction, etc.
 - ▶ Can't take a vote
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Federal/State Election Legal Hierarchy

1. Federal: High-level framework
 2. State: Each Legislature adopts their own election laws
 3. Mn Secretary of State: Administrative rules, best practices, etc.
 4. County Board:
 - A. Election authority comes from the State,
 - B. Appoint Statutory “Elections Administrator” – Kendra
 5. County Attorney: Specific legal advice, interpret election laws, etc.
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Election Security:

▶ **MN's Paper Ballots:**

- ▶ Cornerstone of ballot security
- ▶ No “electronic” voting: paper ballots are basis for outcome
 - ▶ “Statutory Excess Ballot” process:
 - ▶ **Election Night: Total # ballots = Total # signatures**

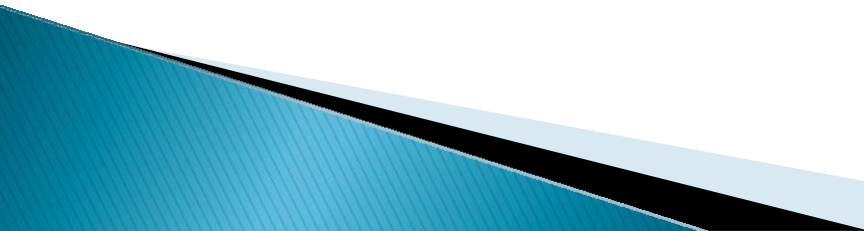
▶ **Cybersecurity:**

- ▶ County IT, State & Federal Resources – very intentional focus, partnership/collaboration
- ▶ Limit risk/best practices: security, redundancy, etc.

▶ **State of MN Certifies List of Election Equipment & Software:**

- ▶ All equipment/systems (MUST be tested and certified by Federal & State)
- ▶ Carver County uses **Election Systems & Software (ES&S)** equipment:
 - ▶ **DS200 Tabulators: No “Voter Receipt” function (Paper Ballots)**
 - ▶ **County-wide Win10 upgrade/no “Win7 vulnerability risk”**

List of Statutory Checks/Balances

- ▶ Public testing/sealing prior to Election Day
 - ▶ Formal process documents chain of custody/security
 - ▶ Absentee Ballot Board - two trained/experienced:
 - ▶ Non-partisan deputized county auditors
 - ▶ Major party balanced election judges
 - ▶ “Statutory Excess Ballot” process
 - ▶ County Canvassing Board: Post-election review
 - ▶ State Canvassing Board: Post-election audit
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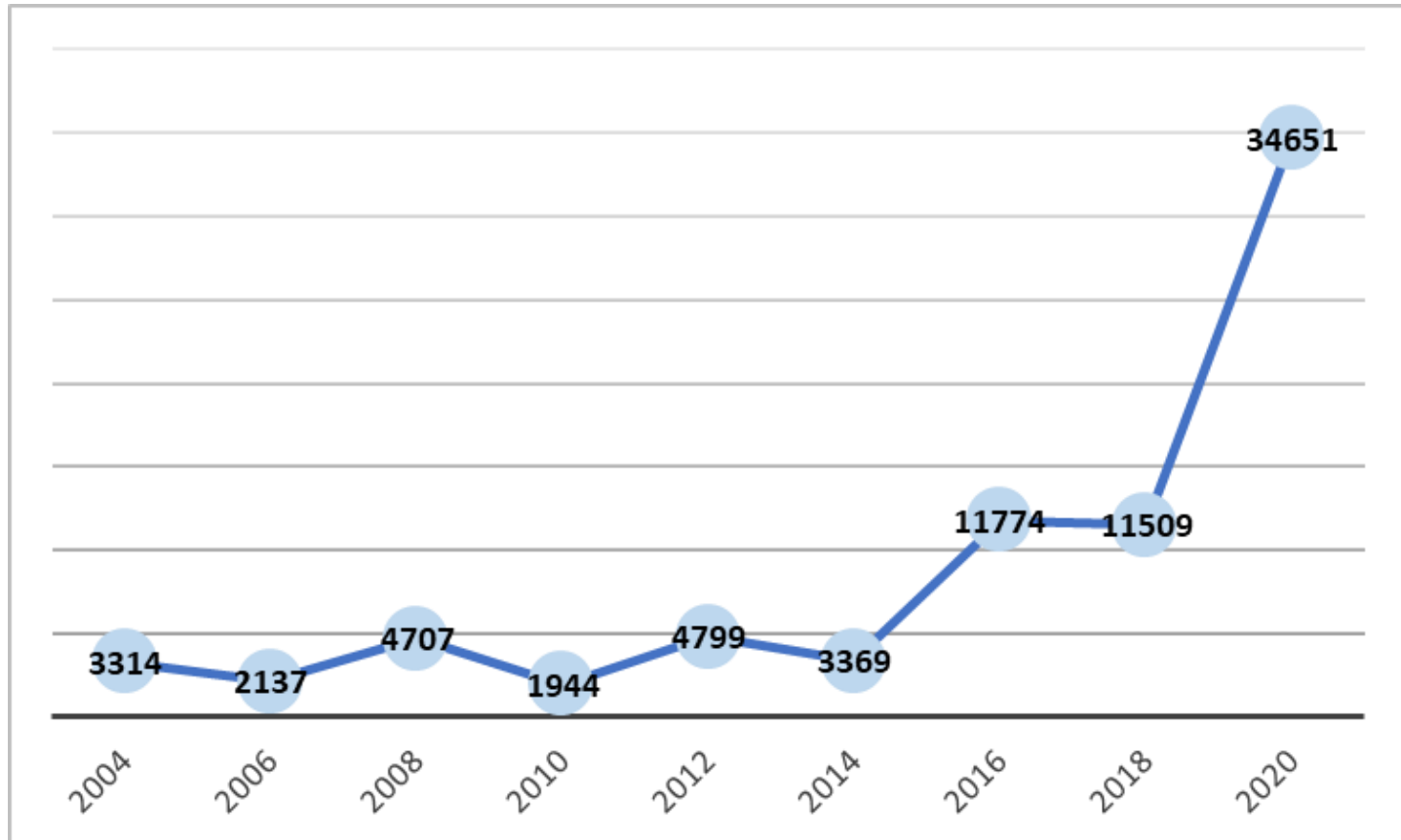
Post-Election Review/Audit

- ▶ **MN Counties required to review General Election systems/results in a public location since 2006.**
 - ▶ **County Canvassing Board:**
 - ▶ **Required to randomly select three Precincts:**
 - ▶ Party balanced Election Judges hand count paper ballots and compare to tabulator results:
 - ▶ U.S. President, Senator, Representative and Governor
 - ▶ **Carver County: 100% Accuracy!**
- ▶ **State Canvassing Board:**
 - ▶ Randomly selects counties to conduct in-depth post-election audit
 - ▶ Carver County Precinct selected every year:
 - ▶ No discrepancies,
 - ▶ Many positive comments:
 - ▶ Accuracy/compliance and
 - ▶ Best practices i.e. additional testing protocols

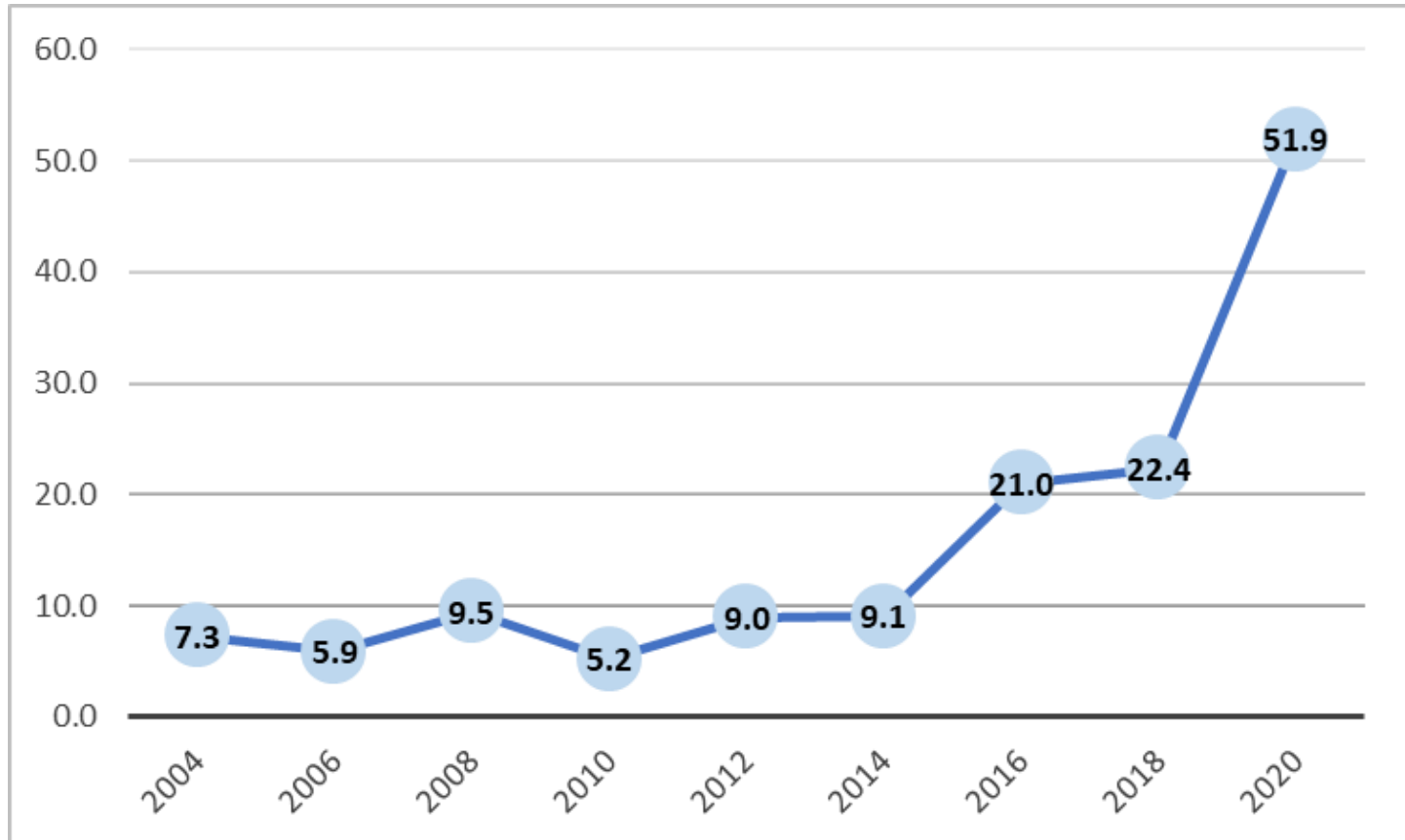
Election Outcomes

- ▶ **Public's Trust!** Voter turnout %?
 - ▶ Mn over 75%
 - ▶ Carver County over 85% (2020 = 93.8%!!)
- ▶ **Accurate!**
 - ▶ 100% on post-election reviews every year
 - ▶ Federal, State, Local recounts – track record of accuracy:
 - ▶ 2008 Franken/Coleman
 - ▶ 2018 State Representative District 47B
- ▶ **Fast!** “100% of precincts reported”?
 - ▶ Consistently first 3 out of 87 MN counties

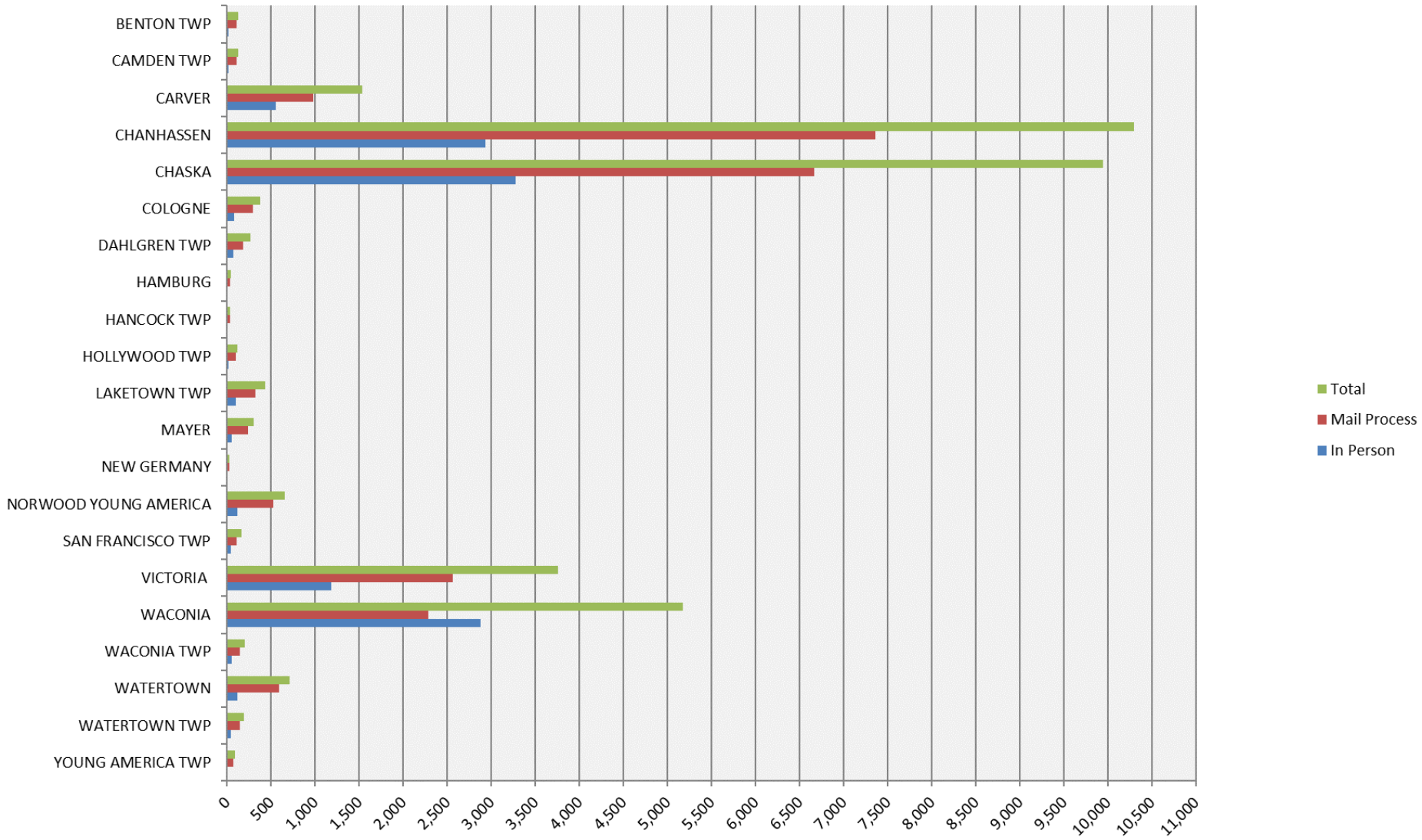
Total Number of General Election Absentee Voters (Ballots Accepted)



Total Percentage of General Election Voters Voting Absentee (Ballots Accepted)



2020 Mail/In-Person Absentee Voting by City/Township



Absentee Ballot (“AB”) Drop Box

- ▶ 2020 Election: MN Statutes did not clearly allow AB Drop Boxes
 - ▶ Voters who didn't want to rely on Post Office
 - ▶ Separate line staffed by two election judges
 - ▶ 30-60 minute wait
 - ▶ Many voters requested AB Drop Box option
- ▶ 2021 MN Legislature: MN Statutes clearly allow w/ requirements:
 - ▶ Secured, Camera surveillance, etc.
 - ▶ More reliable (direct), quicker AB delivery than Post Office mailbox

Absentee Ballot (“AB”) Drop Box

▶ 2022 Election Staff Recommendation:

- ▶ Install internal Govt’ Center AB Return Slot (drops directly into Election Dept. safe)
- ▶ Do not install external AB Drop Box

Absentee Ballot Board

1. Accepts/rejects AB for **46** days (daily) for Primary and General Elections
 - a. **Very little discretion for almost all absentee ballots**

2. 1/22/08 County Board Resolution – Established Ballot Board:
 - a. Approved using deputized county staff
 - b. Delegated authority to appoint party balanced election judges

3. 2022 Supreme Court Ruling:
 - a. County Board's 1/22/08 Resolution statutorily compliant
 - b. Identified one specific scenario:
 - i. Requires party balanced election judges accept/reject AB
 - ii. Scenario occurs infrequently – Plan in place to comply

County Staff Recommendation: Continue utilizing both deputized county staff and party balanced election judges for **46** day AB voting which has been very successful for Carver County.

“Election Results” & “Voter History”

- ▶ State Election Database – Has connected (but different) data:
 - ▶ “Absentee Records”
 - ▶ “Election Results”
 - ▶ “Voter History”
- ▶ Election Night - Every ballot tied to a voter signature!
- ▶ “Statutory Excess Ballot” Process:
 - ▶ Ensures “Election is Balanced” on Election Night
 - ▶ In-Person Signatures + AB Signatures = Ballots Counted
 - ▶ Precincts CANNOT report results for more ballots than valid signatures

“Election Results” & “Voter History”

- ▶ Unofficial “Election Results” - reported on Election Day
- ▶ Update “Voter History” deadline **6 weeks** after Election Day:
 1. Established by MN statute
 2. New voter registrations – manually create
 - a. 3,980 for 2020 General election
 3. Reconciliation – double/triple check numbers
 4. “Voter History” for all voters **electronically updated**
(2020 General Election = **66,712**)

Staff Recommendation for updating “Voter History” - No Change:

- ▶ Current process is modern, electronic and accurate.
- ▶ “Push a Button” Concept: Election judges immediately pushing a button in real time **66,712** times to update “Voter History” seems archaic, inefficient and error-prone.

ES&S DS200: “Image Capture” Feature

- ▶ Streamlines write-in vote counting after polls closed
- ▶ Creates a report of images from paper ballots
- ▶ 2020 Election Pre-Testing – “Capture” not 100% reliable:
 - Turned off “Image Capture” feature
 - Counted write-in votes using actual paper ballots

2022 Election Staff Recommendation:

- Keep “Image Capture” feature turned off
- Count write-in votes using actual paper ballots

Public Input during a County Board Workshop

Please address the County Board with your comments/questions/concerns/etc.

Please limit your comments/questions/concerns/etc. to Carver County elections.

Please limit your comments to 5 minutes in length.

Please remember County Board workshops are for discussion, asking questions, providing direction, etc. only. State laws do not allow the County Board to vote during a Board workshop.

