



PRESS ADVISORY with quotes

WISCONSIN'S VOTING MACHINES ARE INSECURE. OUR FINAL ELECTION RESULTS DON'T HAVE TO BE.

September 16, 2019, Waunakee

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WisPolitics.com on Saturday released an [excellent investigation of Wisconsin's election security](#).

Please. You must grasp the significance of these explosive revelations:

- Milwaukee and several other counties including Waukesha left their election-management computers connected to the internet for long periods. These computers will be used to program the voting machines for the 2020 elections.
- The Wisconsin Elections Commission has responsibility ONLY for the voter-registration computer system, WisVote. Voting machine security is entirely in the hands of the vendors, county clerks, and municipal clerks. WEC has no way to know if the county clerks are maintaining voting-machine system security, and no way to enforce good security even when they are informed of lapses.
- Local election officials are deeply naïve about computer security. In plain words, they literally do not know what they are doing. If the voting-machine salespeople tell them, “your system is never connected to the internet,” they believe them.

If you, as responsible news media, give this issue the attention it deserves, the county clerks can solve it in time for the November 2020 election. In any coverage, please mention the solution: hand-

counted, outcome-verifying audits. You can include any of the following as quotes from me, Karen McKim, Coordinator of Wisconsin Election Integrity:

- Wisconsin county clerks are not now and never will be cybersecurity professionals. They will never be able to guarantee that Election-Night results were unaffected by computer glitches or hacks.
- But county election clerks are not powerless. They have our paper ballots, and they know how to hand-count them. They have as much time as their counterparts in any other state to use them to make sure the computers' Election-Night results identified the right winners.
- Election officials elsewhere, where state officials have more authority, are moving rapidly ahead with a new type of election audit called ‘risk-limiting auditing.’ With RLAs, election officials can prove that they have detected and corrected any serious miscounts before they declare results final.
- The few Wisconsin county clerks who say they audit are doing it wrong. They are merely spot-checking a few voting machines. Worse, none have written plans or policies in place for what they will do if they discover a miscount. If there ever is a problem with Election-Night results, their spot-checking is more likely to create chaos and lawsuits than orderly detection and correction.
- Wisconsin county clerks have the authority they need under current law to secure our final election results with hand-counted audits. National authorities stand ready to help them with education and guidance. They need to get serious soon—now--about protecting our election results with real audits.

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