

NORTH DAKOTA
SECRETARY OF STATE
MICHAEL HOWE

**NORTH DAKOTA
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES**

OCTOBER 22, 2024

MICHAEL HOWE, SECRETARY OF STATE



ELECTIONS 101

North Dakota's trusted source for election information.



Democracy Starts Here

NORTH DAKOTA
SECRETARY OF STATE
MICHAEL HOWE

ELECTIONS IN THE 701

FACTS ABOUT ELECTIONS

SECRETARY OF STATE = CHIEF ELECTION OFFICIAL

53 County Auditors run elections
with oversight from Secretary of State

TOP-DOWN ELECTIONS

Uniformity under law – same equipment, processes

50 STATES = 50 DIFFERENT ELECTION LAWS

What you see in other states often doesn't apply to ND



VOTE

NORTH DAKOTA HAS BEEN PROACTIVE

ELECTION INTEGRITY SAFEGUARDS



ONLY USES PAPER BALLOTS

- Traditional oval-filled paper ballots
- ExpressVote paper ballot card



BANNED ZUCKERBUCKS

- Private \$ to fund election administration is against North Dakota law



ONLY U.S. CITIZENS ALLOWED TO VOTE

- Legislature passed HB 1431.
- Elections are for American citizens ONLY



ROBUST VOTER ID LAWS

- You must have a valid North Dakota ID to vote in North Dakota Elections



ND DOES NOT MASS MAIL BALLOTS

- You must complete an absentee ballot application which includes ID verification before a ballot is mailed to you



BALLOT HANDLING EQUIPMENT DOES NOT CONNECT TO THE INTERNET- EVER

- DS200, DS450, and ExpressVote are not connected to the internet ... and contain no components for such a connection



ROBUST VOTER ID LAWS IN NORTH DAKOTA

OUR LAWS MAKE US THE ONLY STATE WITHOUT VOTER REGISTRATION

VALID IDs IN NORTH DAKOTA INCLUDE:

ND Drivers License ND Non-Drivers ID
Tribal ID or Tribal Letter Long Term Care Certificate

ID LAW APPLIES TO ALL VOTING

Vote by Mail Absentee
Early Voting Election Day

YOU MUST BE:

18 Years Old U.S. Citizen
Lived in North Dakota for 30 days prior to Election Day



ELECTION EQUIPMENT

SECRETARY OF STATE APPROVES VOTING SYSTEMS

EQUIPMENT EXTENSIVELY TESTED
– FEDERAL EAC CERTIFIED

SAME VENDOR/SAME EQUIPMENT

ES&S equipment used in all 53 counties.

DS200 – POLLING LOCATION

Paper ballot tabulator used in all polling sites.

DS450 – ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Large capacity ballot tabulator
– used at courthouse for absentee ballots.



BALLOT HANDLING EQUIPMENT =

→ NO Internet connection

→ NO components for connection

ELECTION EQUIPMENT

SECRETARY OF STATE APPROVES VOTING SYSTEMS

EQUIPMENT EXTENSIVELY TESTED
– FEDERAL EAC CERTIFIED

EXPRESSVOTE – TOUCHSCREEN

Assistive ballot marking device – Think* big pencil

AVAILABLE TO ALL VOTERS

Provides voters with disabilities greater accessibility

USES PAPER BALLOT CARD

Inserted in DS200 ballot tabulator the same as traditional paper ballots



BALLOT HANDLING EQUIPMENT =

→ NO Internet connection

→ NO components for connection

ELECTION EQUIPMENT

SECRETARY OF STATE APPROVES VOTING SYSTEMS



POLLPADS – ELECTRONIC POLLBOOKS

Vendor - KNOWiNK

CHECKS VOTER IN AT POLLING LOCATION

Ensures One Person = One Vote

Updates Central Voter File – Checks in Voter

Knows which voters voted by mail

Sends check-in info to PollPads in the State



PRINTS BALLOT TICKET

Voter uses ticket to get correct ballot



CONNECTED TO OTHER POLLING LOCATIONS IN NORTH DAKOTA =

→ SECURE portal - encryption

→ SIGNAL ACTIVE with secure access

VOTE BY MAIL & ABSENTEE

MAKING VOTING EASY IN NORTH DAKOTA

VOTE BY MAIL – 36 COUNTIES

Counties mail qualified voters in Central Voter File an absentee ballot application.

Voter can choose to 1fill out the application OR 2vote in person on Election Day

→ Voter completes and returns application with Voter ID information

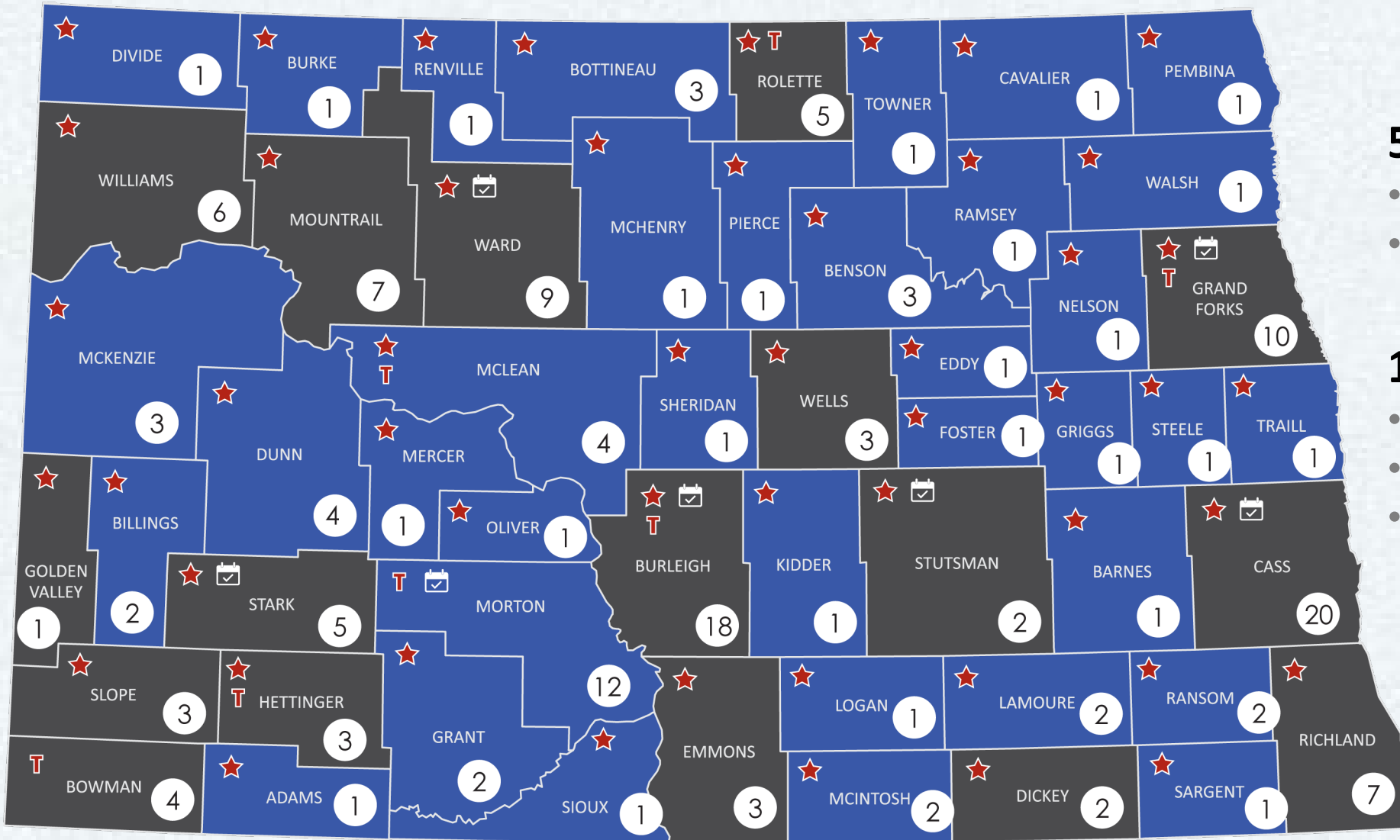
ABSENTEE – REQUEST THE APPLICATION – 17 COUNTIES

→ Same process as above but voter requests application.

**EVERY COUNTY HAS AT LEAST
1 POLLING LOCATION ON ELECTION DAY**



2024 GENERAL ELECTION



53 COUNTIES

- 36 VOTE BY MAIL
- 17 ABSENTEE

172 POLLING LOCATIONS

- 36 - VOTE CENTERS
- 7 - TRADITIONAL POLLING
- 7 - EARLY VOTING

 VOTE BY MAIL COUNTY	 ABSENTEE COUNTY	 NO. OF POLLING LOCATIONS	 VOTE CENTER	 EARLY VOTE	 TRADITIONAL POLLING LOCATIONS
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ELECTION SECURITY

DON'T SPREAD MISINFORMATION

ALL BALLOTS = PAPER BALLOTS



BALLOT HANDLING EQUIPMENT =

→ **NO** Internet connection

→ **NO** components for connection

EQUIPMENT EXTENSIVELY TESTED

U.S. Election Assistance Commission Certified

100% ACCURACY TESTING BEFORE & AFTER ELECTION

Public tests before election – required by law

Test after polls close – required by law



ELECTION SECURITY

NORTH DAKOTA ELECTIONS ARE SECURE



“The determination after extensive review from our contractor was that our election systems are incredibly secure across our state ...”

STATE AUDITOR JOSH GALLION

VOTING PROCESS SECURITY ASSESSMENT AUDIT

Audit conducted in 2022 – Same systems and process for 2024

AUDIT FINDS THAT FOR NORTH DAKOTA ELECTION SYSTEMS TO BE EXPLOITED

→ UNPRECEDENTED collusion would have to occur

→ EXCEPTIONALLY UNLIKELY results of a ND election would be influenced by fraud

COURTHOUSE ELECTION SECURITY

PHYSICAL SECURITY IS IMPORTANT



SAFE ASSESSMENTS WITH CISA

Reviews of office and storage areas with regards to physical security.

CHAIN OF CUSTODY

Auditors, election workers follow strict chain of custody processes.

PHYSICAL SECURITY

Address access controls – keypads badges, locks, cameras, locked cages, etc.

Cybersecurity – .GOV domains – Protection from DDoS Attacks

– GRANTS

- **STATE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM (SHSP)**
- **STATE & LOCAL CYBERSECURITY GRANT PROGRAM (SLCGP)**



YOUR TRUSTED SOURCE FOR ELECTION INFORMATION

UNSURE of a
process ...

HEARD
something that
didn't sound
right ...

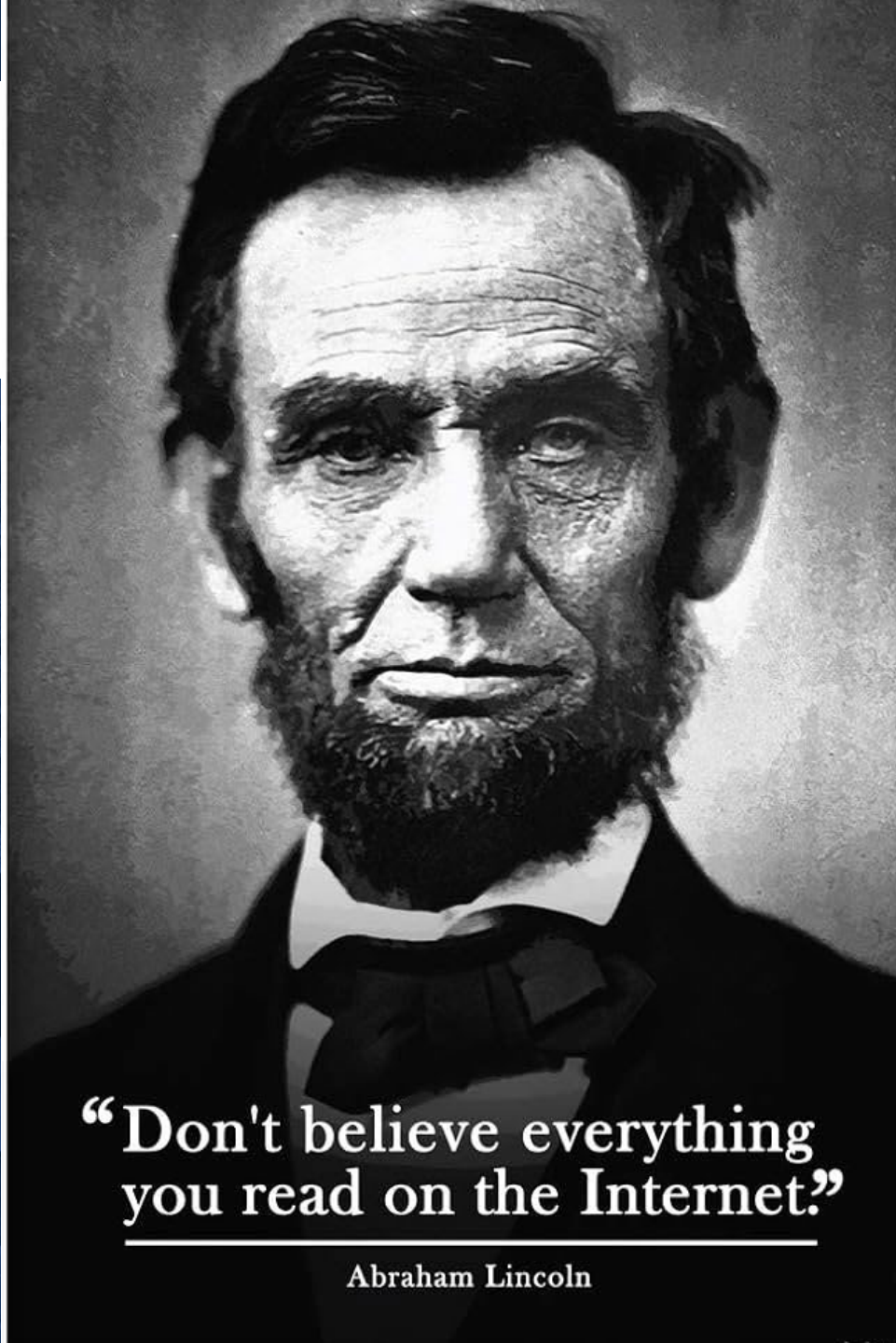
CRAZY <insert name here>
saw something on <insert
social network here> and
told you about it ...

CONTACT US



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**YOU ARE THE LAST
LINE OF DEFENSE IN
ELECTION SECURITY**



**“Don't believe everything
you read on the Internet.”**

Abraham Lincoln



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