



Why Can't We Tell Who Voted? Election Reconciliations – Part II

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In a previous essay on the importance of reconciliations, I made the case for the need to be assured that any important report we receive is accurate. Performing reconciliations are one of the key verification procedures to accomplish that objective. This is true of financial reports, bank statements and even the results of our elections.

Under current Minnesota election law, a reconciliation of, or an accounting for, all ballots received and used in each precinct must be performed after the polls close. That reconciliation has two parts. The first is a summary of how each ballot was used (cast, spoiled, etc.). Together with the unused ballots, this count should agree with the total number of ballots the precinct initially received.

This reconciliation then goes a bit deeper. The second part compares the total ballots cast, according to the tabulator, to the total number of ballots in the ballot box. Then, this total is agreed to the number of voters who signed to receive a ballot.

The reconciliation of the ballots in this manner is an important verification procedure to ensure only ballots from eligible voters were counted – no more and no less. But a third crucial step is missing.

When a voter checks in to vote at the precinct and votes, that activity is not being consistently logged in the State-Wide Voter Registration System (SVRS). In those cases, the voter history does not show that the voter has cast a vote in that election. Therefore, the loop, between a voter appearing at the precinct, voting, and having his/her vote recorded in the all-important SVRS database, is not closed.

One could think of this entire ballot reconciliation process as a three-legged stool. In the precincts, the election judges attach two of the legs to the stool, but without the third leg (the recording of the vote cast in each individual's voter history in the SVRS), the stool will not stand. It's utility as a chair is questionable.

In an environment where accountability is honored, the changes in the active voter histories should equal the sum of the ballots reported as cast in the precincts.

It appears that no one has ever attempted to attach the third leg to this stool. Without this important step, the election results are suspect. Why? Well, simply because not all the ballots tallied and reported have been tied to an eligible voter in the voter database.

Relating EVERY BALLOT CAST to a real, legal, active voter in the SVRS should be an absolute requirement prior to certifying an election. Today, no one can report with certainty who voted in Minnesota?"



Our Secretary of State, Steve Simon, proudly crows that Minnesota has the one of the highest voter turnouts in the nation. But he simply cannot honestly tell you which citizens turned out to vote. He is simply not able to tie the number of ballots tallied to the actual legitimate voters in the voter rolls.

To demonstrate how loosely the elections are run, **in the 2020 election, one month following election day some 38% of the ballots cast had still not been traced to an active voter.**

As citizens we must ask, "How can an election be certified as official when the Secretary of State cannot find voters for 38% of the ballots?"