



Antrim County Clerk

Press Release

April 5, 2021

For Immediate Release

Antrim County May 2021 Election

ANTRIM COUNTY, Mich. – On March 18, 2021, the Antrim County Board of Commissioners, at its regularly scheduled meeting, voted to hold the May 2021 election with paper ballots and a hand count. As County Clerk, I am responsible by law to supervise elections in Antrim County. Under Michigan law, the Secretary of State is responsible for selecting a “uniform voting system” for use in the state. A “uniform voting system” is a voting system that is used at ALL elections in EVERY precinct throughout the state.

Many years ago, an electronic voting system was chosen as the “uniform voting system” in Michigan. This means that years ago, an electronic voting system was selected as the voting system that must be used in ALL elections in EVERY precinct throughout the state.

While Michigan law allows me, in consultation with township clerks, to select the type of electronic voting system that can be used in Antrim County, it does not allow me to change the “uniform voting system” that must be used. In 2017, in consultation with all township clerks, I selected Dominion Voting Systems as the electronic voting system to be used in Antrim County elections. The decision to select Dominion Voting Systems as the electronic voting system in Antrim County was unanimous among all township clerks.

Since the County Board of Commissioners does not have the authority to determine which voting system to use in Antrim County, and because as County Clerk, I, in consultation with township clerks, have the authority to decide which electronic voting system can be used in Antrim County, I cannot legally hold the May 2021 election with paper ballots counted by hand.

I believe it is necessary for me to clarify that even when using an electronic voting system, a paper ballot is used to cast vote in Antrim County. The paper ballot is then fed into a tabulator to record the vote instead of being hand counted. Therefore, the only difference between how elections are legally required to be conducted in Antrim County and the Board’s decision on March 18, 2021, is in how the paper ballots can be counted. The County Board can request a hand re-count of any or all votes cast in the May 2021 election.

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