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Committee on Homeland Security

Lake County Illinois protects the security and reliability of our election infrastructure. We recognize the importance of using best practices researching and acquiring modern election systems architecture, as well as collaborating with organizations dedicated to guiding and providing us services of the highest merit.

Lake County has a population of 700,832 according to the U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimate Program 2018 and 458,586 registered voters as of October 11, 2019. There are 121 voting sites on the day of election and 18 early voting sites throughout the county. Lake County offers three voting options: Vote by mail, Early Voting and Election Day. Citizens may grace register to vote during Early Voting, up to and including Election Day.

Listed below is a snapshot of our election landscape:

1. Network connected systems and components (We are not connected to the internet):
Voter Registration System
2. Indirectly connected systems: Election Management System, ePollbooks
3. Non-digital elections components: In this category our vote by mail process involves multi-steps. There are parts which are digital such as online requests and signature verifications.

Lake County participated in the Illinois Elections Cyber Navigators Risk Assessment which was used to identify and assess impacts of vulnerabilities on our network and election systems. A common baseline risk assessment as well as examining the inherent complexity of network connectivity was conducted. The results were as follows: The Lake County IT Department had already implemented some of the recommendations, and we are working on implementation of the others.

A common concern is the pairing of information between voter registration and the election tabulation, as well as connectivity. Both systems are separate and not connected. Our Voter Registration system will soon be on the Illinois Century Network (ICN), which is a separate and private dedicated network for traffic between the Illinois State Board of Elections and our Voter Registration system. Our Election Tabulation system is not connected to the internet.

Within our Election Systems and Mitigating Risk policies, we pride ourselves in being proactive and prepared for risks and threats. Listed below are management systems within our cyber-security profile.

- A. County Level: Lake County has an IT Security Officer, along with a robust IT department that has already implemented cyber security measures protecting the County

network and IT systems, including our ePollbook, voter registration, and election tabulation systems.

- B. State Level: The Lake County Clerk's Office joined the Illinois Elections Cyber Navigators program and is working to implement recommendations from the risk assessment
- C. National Level: The Lake County Clerk's Office joined the EI-ISAC (Election Infrastructure Information Sharing and Analysis Center) and MS-ISAC (Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center) and receive regular advisories and recommendations from these organizations. We are also adding an Albert Sensor to our Voter Registration system, which is a monitoring tool that looks for malicious traffic on our network and alerts the Center for Internet Security (CIS) Security Operations Center, a 24 x 7 analysis center that will investigate and provide resources to mitigate any issues on our network.

Finally, the optical scan voting system leaves a secure paper trail and minimizes the risk against outside interference as no electronic votes are ever cast. All voting results can be accurately reproduced by re-inserting the voted paper ballots through the ballot counter or manual inspection.

The threat of election interference is constant and requires vigilance to maintain election integrity. The Lake County Clerk and Team values our citizens' confidence to keep their votes safe and secure.