



How I plan to improve the Minnehaha County Auditor's Office

By Curt Deedrich

I launched my campaign for Minnehaha County auditor in January. Through many conversations with stakeholders at the county level I have gathered an understanding of what is currently working and what needs attention. I will provide my thoughts and comments below in three key areas: **elections, auditing, and staffing.**

ELECTIONS:

What is working: our current election process is secure.

What needs attention: more vote counting machines and more space for election counting.

In the 2010 Fall General Election there were 105,791 registered voters with 65,973 actual voters or 62.36% turnout.

In the 2024 Fall General Election there were 136,817 registered voters with 95,648 actual voters or 69.9% turnout.

There were 4 vote counting machines in BOTH elections, even though the actual voters increased by 44%.

I feel the county needs 2 if not 3 more counting machines. I discovered the main problem with adding vote counting machines is the lack of space within the current auditor's office. A new building is proposed to be built but that is years away. I suggest the county finds larger facilities to accommodate the election counting process which includes space for up to 3 more counting machines and for a full complement of the needed resolution board members who rule on ballots that were rejected by the counting machines.

AUDITING:

What is working: our county has consistently met all financial reporting deadlines.

What needs attention: improved delivery of useful accounting data.

The county utilizes enterprise-wide software which connects all departments. This software is from Tyler Technologies and is called Munis. Tyler Technologies Munis is for public sector finance — fund accounting, budget controls, and compliance reporting software, but its expense reporting capabilities are limited. I will work with the auditor's staff and with all other county departments to develop a top-notch reporting segment. This may involve using a third-party reporting software company.



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STAFFING:

What is working: the elections staff (eventually) completes all important tasks.

What needs attention: shortening the time needed to complete ballot counting so that accurate results are released sooner, in line with other similar-sized counties and communities.

In the 2010 Fall General Election there were 9 full-time employees in the auditor's office.

In the 2024 Fall General Election there were 10 full-time employees in the auditor's office.

There has been 1 full-time employee added in 14 years, even though the actual voting count increased by 44%. Adding 1 employee in 14 years equates with an 11% increase in staffing over those years. I will work to add staffing in the auditor's office so that the public can receive timely delivery of election totals. There may also need to be staff added to improve the auditing functions as they relate to better reporting and categorizing expenses.

My campaign is about restoring confidence, respecting every voter, making government easier to understand, building an office where transparency is expected, accountability is embraced, and every decision is guided by fairness and the law.

If I have the privilege of serving as County Auditor, you can expect an organized office, clear communication, transparent elections, professional leadership, respectful customer service, fiscal responsibility and an unwavering commitment to earning and keeping your trust.

I would be honored to have your vote for Minnehaha County Auditor this fall.

Curt Deedrich is a candidate for Minnehaha County Auditor. He has over 20 years of experience in government. His public-service experience includes service on a village board, as a Township Assessor, and as a Chief County Assessment Official, along with decades of practical experience in farming, administration, and local government.