



# NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
June 1, 2022

## **Macomb County Clerk Determined to Lead State in Election Integrity**

Detroit News cited a report by *the nation's leading cybersecurity agency that electronic voting machines from a leading vendor used in at least 16 states, including Michigan, have software vulnerabilities that leave them susceptible to hacking if unaddressed.* The report refers to a lawsuit that focused solely on Dominion voting machines.

Macomb County uses election equipment produced by Election Systems and Software (ES & S) exclusively. Since his election in November 2020, Clerk Forlini has instituted measures to reduce the risk of exploitation of vulnerabilities that were applied ahead of each election. To help prevent or detect the exploitation of possible vulnerabilities, Macomb County Clerk shut off modem transmissions of unofficial election results. The County now requires hand delivery of all secured USB drives from tabulators to the County on election day. In addition, a HASH validation of the County server is now required, and tabulator scanning capabilities for greater transparency have been enabled.

In the report, University of Michigan computer scientist J. Alex Halderman states in part “These vulnerabilities, for the most part, are not ones that could be easily exploited by someone who walks in off the street, but they are things that we should worry could be exploited by sophisticated attackers, such as hostile nation states, or by election insiders.”

“We need to continue to be diligent with our election equipment security so that our elections are not compromised. Michigan’s decentralized elections put greater authority and control in the hands of local clerks, reducing the ability for widespread fraud,” stated Forlini.

Macomb County has taken strong measures and is determined to lead the state in election integrity. “We all have a stake in ensuring elections are secure. This starts with local clerks securing tabulators all the way up the chain to the Secretary of State. We cannot rest, and we must continue to innovate, staying ahead of those that want to exploit our elections,” said Forlini.

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