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[00:00:00] **Speaker 1** Yes, it's required. We do public testing for all the voting equipment it's required by the municipal clerks. They do a public notice 48 hours before.

[00:00:10] **Speaker 2** The.

[00:00:10] **Speaker 1** Test, and the public can go in and they can watch their there's a predetermined test stack that they run through it. Those results must match up with the spreadsheet that's there. And that shows you that this machine is coming in the way that it's supposed to. You know, when people say the machines are hooked up to the Internet and people are tested throughout the day and changing the votes, you know, that's just not true. These machines are only connected to the Internet and all they can be connected at the end of the day after you close your polls, at that point is the only time you can turn the modems on in these machines and you can send the results. And the results are a private, secure network that if you try to search for it, you won't be able to find it because it's a private network. And all that sent is an extremely tiny, small file with the numbers that comes into my office. And that's all. And those are unofficial results on election night. We have to stress this, that the public wants the results at 8:01 p.m.. They want results on what happened. Well, there's some checks and balances that have to happen, but we've done modems now and we want results and so we can get you the results faster. But that's just the unofficial results on election night. The next day the clerks bring me those memory sticks and I read them into my election software. And what's on those stick is different for what mode? And then on election night, it flags it for me. So if someone was able to tap in and D encrypt these and change it and send it back and we didn't catch that, it would be caught there. And let me take that a step farther. When I do my canvass and I have a board member sitting right here in the audience, we we call the numbers off of the tape. We don't even go off of the memory stick or we don't walk about. The results are voting. And on election night, we read the numbers from the tape that was printed off at that machine at the polling place on election night. And so when people say like, you know, they're tapping in and they're changing your votes and you have to keep in mind that in Wisconsin, every ballot has a paper trail. We say get involved. If you don't believe us, come sit through one of my recounts and you'll see how scrutinized we do. Everything on Election Day is redone and we count those ballots not once, but we call them twice. After every general election, the elections commission randomly picks municipalities to do audits. We sit there, I think it was after the 22 election, a few minutes while clerk here sat there for six hours. We recorded almost 10,000 ballots. Twice every ballot was counted twice. And that was an audit to say, What do we have here that that matched the tape and what we did for the canvass. And never have we had an instance where the tape did not match the ballots, where we didn't have a reason. And if something changes, it's usually because the voter circled the oval versus filling them in or they did the X or the machine couldn't read it. There's never been an instance where randomly votes have appeared or disappeared or changed because the machines vote on those results. And so it's another one of those things that get thrown out there. So you have that ensuing of doubt that you can trust the results of these elections. And I think we're always going to be fighting that. But I will always be here telling you that it's not true for for the reasons we're talking about tonight.

[00:03:08] **Speaker 3** So I just like to remind people that after the 2020 election, there were certain news organizations that were sued because they're perpetuating the lies about manipulated voting machines that Fox News that we sell for close to $1 billion based on the lies that they're perpetuating in their news and following the election. So, again, there may be severe consequences if you're going to be out there perpetuating these lies about manipulation at the ballot box and how the votes are counted. And that was demonstrated through these lawsuits against news organizations that were that were involved in it.

[00:03:40] **Speaker 2** So, Tim, I'm in a fantasy. Like, what's the latest you ever had to stay up for election night for any of your results? Is yours pretty much went dark most of the time. But what can you tell the rest of us about when we should fairly expect to see results and why it doesn't come at everyone?

[00:04:00] **Speaker 4** Well, the first time I was elected to the United States Congress, we didn't go public. The results of the election would be up for about a day and a half afterwards because the polls closed and I think I was may have been behind at 12:00 at night or a little bit late. For Juneau County, it was way in the West. Most of the votes in the district were in Sheboygan. Ashburton Fond du Lac near to Arkansas and Juneau County called Good Rural County. And the people there just went home at about 10:00. They go to finish coming in later and the next day the counties were and it turned out I ended up winning much better doing that from I knew who I was in Juneau County. But there was a race for Judge in Juneau Company that draw a lot of people to vote. It was a special election selection with Spring. And. And. Well, they were there. They voted for me, too. And I ended up winning by about 600 votes out of about over 100,000 votes. And it was General Kelly that made the difference.

[00:05:15] **Speaker 2** So one of the other issues that was brought up a lot is has to do with absentee ballots and read. I want you to comment on this because Donald Trump in 2020 told his people not to vote absentee. He said do not trust the mail. Do not trust absentee balloting because of the Covid pandemic. There were a lot of Democrats, more than ever, and a lot of voters more than ever that voted by absentee. And now we are seeing a shift in some of that mentality. But what can you tell us about your experience with absentee balloting and encouraging voters to trust that process?

[00:05:47] **Speaker 5** A lot of elected officials vote absentee often. And I know for almost all the April elections, I voted absentee because I was working in Washington. And so we've talked a little bit about how those ballots are are counted in the envelopes that they're in and things like that. All of our veterans that are our active duty military that are deployed around the world, they vote absentee. President Trump voted absentee. It's just my guess is given the type of business he was in, he probably voted absentee in most of his life, to be honest with you. And I think there was a sort of grasping at straws as he began to see his own polling struggle. But the whole absentee ballot thing has been going on in the country for a very long time. And you can take it to mail in voting. And for Republicans in the room or who are listening on the livestream that maybe concerned about the idea of mail ballots or almost all mail ballots that you think of the state of Utah, they send a ballot out to everybody in the state of Oregon who sends a ballot out to everybody. And the idea there is they want everybody to vote. They want everybody to participate, as Ron said. And so if you've got one very, very conservative state and a blue state that and that are using the mail to get ballots in all the time. And so it's a very it's a very secure system and it makes it available for people that otherwise could not vote. And in 2020, my wife had broken her back and it had major surgery. She was unable to walk. And so she voted absentee. And that's just that's life in America, you know, And we might have aging parents or or people who are disabled for different reasons, and we want them to be able to participate in this great American democracy. And that gives them a reason to. And I think the bigger concern that they had were the drop boxes, because there was a concern that the Postal Service could keep up and get mail there. So the idea was you don't need a stamp or can't afford stamping it out your ballot in the box. And then there were adaptations that took place during Covid that different states chose to do to try to try to to make the right to vote available to everybody. And it wasn't like they said, we're going to make these new rules up, but only Democrats could use them. I think I think in some cases, political party, they they undermined their own efforts by how they talked about this. And it didn't it didn't help them. And I think they're learning now because all of a sudden the RNC is talking about mail in ballots and early voting. So they do get them. But for those of you in the room that are skeptical about about the elections, I want you to know that the government at all levels has heard your concern and they're trying to rebuild and and try to remake the trust in it. And so I thank you for coming. Thank you for listening. Because if there's anything we can do to help encourage you not to to not have faith in it, we want encourage you to trust what's going on because we want a fair and honest result. And I can tell you, as a candidate, all I wanted was a fair and honest result, and that was it.

[00:09:22] **Speaker 2** So, Jenny, let's talk about something you did reference, and that is what happens after election night, because the real count, the official results aren't official until the of canvassers meet. And we have heard rumors, theories about what may happen in other swing states, key states where there may be additional challenges to certifying elections. And what will power does anyone have at any level to challenge these elections from being certified to getting to the point where we can officially say who won? In the sense?

[00:09:54] **Speaker 1** No challenges can be done in the sales force and until your board of canvassers has certified those results. So to say our board of canvassers are going to certify the results. That has never happened in Wisconsin. I don't see that happening in Wisconsin. You probably have 72 county clerks that are going to be elated to sign their name to that board. We've had before canvassers Tabulators David putting an end to the election and saying this is the results, we're done and now we can move on with our lives because we've been nothing but the presidential election for the last 6 or 8 months. You know, once that certified, you know, those results don't go up to the Wisconsin Election Commission and they certify the results for all 72 counties and for all the federal contests and the state contest. Once that does, if a candidate feels something happened and they're within that range, that they're allowed to ask for a recount, they certainly can answer that record. And that's what we're going to do. We did a partial recount after the 22 election. We did a school district recount after the April 23rd election. We've done more recounts than I can think of. It is now that things county clerks like to think the recount is our Super Bowl. But I don't I don't think you know, because when you have people out there saying these elections are rigged and this happens and that has them, all we can say is get involved, Come to my recount. If you don't want to work the recount, we pay well. We give you food. But come and watch. You see how we tear apart Election Day between the pull book and who's on the pull back? And does that match the number of ballots that were cast? And we go through the absentee ourselves. We talk about absentee voting. We're going to look at those absentee ballots. And every absentee ballot is that person's name on the absentee law. And does that show they requested a ballot? Does it show the ballot was returned as a show? The ballot was continued, was issued a number. But we go through the ballots themselves. We count every single ballot twice. So we certify these elections and the recounts. We go through them and we do everything all over again and we do it painstakingly. And it takes time. And it is days sometimes and it takes weeks. But that's the process we go to. So when we're done and we say, these are the results, and I can guarantee you these results are safe, secure. And this is how the election was done by the voters who cast their ballots. And we make darn sure those ballots are counted properly.

[00:12:11] **Speaker 2** So we're about ten minutes away from the section where we'll start taking. So we also have the questions of the audience. So last chance to scan some QR codes and submit a question. But I want to go through the panel here. And Tim, I'm going to start with you. If there is one piece of legislation or one law change, you could make it the federal or state level that would most reinforce or boost trust in our elections. Can you think of something that you would like to see passed?

[00:12:40] **Speaker 4** If I had a magic wand that I could wave, that would stop all that. I don't. I think, frankly, that the system is pretty open and people can go down and watch the voting being counted. You have the parties and have observers at the polls. But we try to keep the campaigning from people from interfering with the vote for a good reason. You know, and I don't I think the system is. And I actually one thing that I personally feel very strongly about that is that I like the fact that it's a state based system in the United States and in each state. It's based on the county and local because it really is from the bottom up. And if it were if we were to change it to a national system, I think we'd lose a lot of the discipline that we have now by having it done locally.

[00:13:52] **Speaker 5** If I were to make one change, it would be that they start counting the mail in ballots at the beginning of the day and not wait till the end of the day. Yeah, I would even say open.

[00:14:05] **Speaker 2** So there is a proposal. There was a proposal that would have allowed for early counts to that is they can start the morning of Election Day. But there was an effort to switch that to Monday before an election. Is that what you're talking about? Yeah.

[00:14:17] **Speaker 5** Yeah. I think that earlier you can start counting those because those have already been delivered. Set up whatever time parameter you want. But the idea to count them so late lends to this kind of rumor mill. This candidate was winning, and that all of a sudden these magical ballots showed up. I think it plays into the the idea if you are prone to mistrust, resolve, and so that the sooner you can count, the sooner the results can be done, the more reliable I believe it becomes. And so that would be the one change. And I would like the federal government to stay out of Wisconsin, Wisconsin. I want her to deal with it. And I want the 1800 other neighbors of mine to deal with it and not some bureaucrat in Washington, D.C., dictating it.

[00:15:10] **Speaker 3** Well, unfortunately, re-install my plan as far as what I was hoping for with Plan B would be making it easier for people to register regardless of party affiliation or just making too many obstacles to make it harder for people to even register and then mail every registered voter ballot and make it easy for them to vote. And that ought to be our north star of all of this discussion of reform is what can we do to make it easier for the American citizen to vote during the election cycle and let that be our guide regardless of any party consideration?

[00:15:44] **Speaker 2** Ginny, I don't want to make you into a lobbyist here, but would you like to chime in? Is there something that you would like to see done?

[00:15:52] **Speaker 1** Yeah, I'm going to have to agree. We had the county clerks in this clerks. We thought we had a bipartisan bill for Monday, processing of absentees. And it goes into exactly what we said here in Milwaukee and the counties where they have Central County, because they have hundreds of thousands of absentees. They can't start counting them until the polls open at 7:00. The process of central counting is very tedious for absentees. So all the polling places in Milwaukee County and Waukesha County and those bigger counties, they've pulled their results. They're posted. But everyone forgets that there's still those central count absentee ballot totals that have to come in. So when they say they went to bed at one candidate's went in and they woke up and they got flipped and that's what happened. Well, that's the reason for it. And we were trying to get the Monday processing bill passed so absentee ballots could be processed on Monday. They're not tallied. The results aren't released. Their process, they're held tight until Election Day. And then at the end of Election Day, all the results are posted at once. And then that goes to that conspiracy theory that, you just switched all the votes or you stopped the ballots to make sure your candidate win. And you know, you will find the county clerk who is against this. I think there was many, many of the 850 municipal clerks are in favor of this because it just makes things run smoother if we can get those absentees counted and results posted as one on election night.

[00:17:15] **Speaker 2** So let us shift to some of the questions that I reading off of the app that came in from all of you. I have a few questions here, so thank you for submitting them. And if any of you want to get some more in a minute here. So the first one is no drop boxes were video monitored as promised in 2020. Then those boxes were declared unconscious to.