

Your Vote in Haven Township — How It's Cast, Counted, and Verified

The facts, from Minnesota law and Sherburne County's own published procedures — not rumors.

Haven Township Board | September 2026

Nine Things That Protect Your Ballot

- **Paper.** You mark a paper ballot by hand. The paper is the official ballot — the machine just counts it.
- **Certified machines.** Sherburne's tabulators are approved by the federal Election Assistance Commission and the State of Minnesota.
- **Public testing.** Before every election, each machine is tested with counted decks of ballots — first by staff, then at a public accuracy test anyone can attend, checked by two election judges from opposite parties.
- **Bipartisan judges.** State law requires election judges from both major parties. Every seal, tape, and delivery is signed off by both.
- **Zero-and-summary tapes.** Machines start at zero (taped, pre-7 a.m.) and close with a summary tape that must balance: signatures → poll pad → ballots → machine count.
- **No internet.** Tabulators are never connected to the internet or WiFi. Results go by encrypted cellular modem to an isolated county election server.
- **Sealed custody.** Memory cards and tapes go into sealed, initialed metal cases; ballots are sealed and initialed; both parties deliver everything to the Auditor within 24 hours. Ballots are kept locked for 22 months.
- **Hand-count audit.** After every general election, Minnesota law requires each county to hand-count selected precincts and compare to the machine count — in public. Results must match or more precincts are audited.
- **State watches too.** The Secretary of State separately monitors procedures in randomly selected precincts in every congressional district.

The Record — Verified

- **Haven Township P-2 was audited in 2022:** hand count matched the machine exactly — zero differences.
- **2024 statewide:** 220 of 220 audited precincts passed. Sherburne's three — including Clear Lake Township — matched perfectly.
- **2022 statewide:** 222 of 224 passed; the two discrepancies were caught by the audit itself and corrected before certification.
- **2020 local proof:** the Senate District 14 recount — 39,488 ballots hand-counted — changed five votes and the margin by one. Differences get caught and fixed.

The Bottom Line

Your vote is cast on paper, counted by tested machines, guarded by bipartisan judges and sealed custody, and audited by hand after every general election. Minnesota's system already uses the two defenses federal experts rank first: paper ballots and post-election manual audits. It holds up — and you can watch it.

COME SEE IT YOURSELF

1. Attend a public accuracy test before the election — announced at haventwp.org and by the County.
 2. Watch the post-election review — dates for every county are posted on the Secretary of State's website.
 3. Become an election judge — the bipartisan pair rule means your presence IS the security. Ask the Township Clerk.
 4. Read the records — audit results, machine versions, and canvass reports are public.
- Questions: Eric Meyer, Chairman — supervisormeyer@haventwp.org • Tammy Schefers, Township Clerk — 320-743-3717

Sources: Minn. Stat. §§ 206.89, 206.895, 204B.19; MN Secretary of State post-election review results (2022, 2024); Sherburne County Auditor/Treasurer election pages; CISA Election Report (July 2026). Full evidence brief available from the Township.