

H044

SB 217

Mick Baruth

FOLLOW THE MONEY TRAIL

Dollars Leaving vs Dollars Saved AND Staying

We thought it would be appropriate with all the talk about how best to build up voter confidence in our elections that we analyze the driving force in virtually everything in our lives. The almighty dollar and the age old adage FOLLOW THE MONEY TRAIL.

The South Dakota Secretary of State's website unofficial results on January 25, 2025 says that we had 624,186 registered voters and 436,478 votes cast in the 2024 general election which correlates to a 69.93% voter turnout. In the 2024 primary election, we had 100,505 votes cast and 591,153 registered voters which correlates to a 17% voter turnout.

The most important thing we can evaluate is the costs going forward to continue the use of the services of ES&S. The naysayers will say that the counties are being reimbursed (if they apply for and receive the reimbursements) by HAVA (Help America Vote Act) funds. We all know that in reality those funds are really nothing more than our tax dollars being laundered to an out of state company. This company must reprogram the tabulators for each and every election for each and every precinct. With this in mind how easy would it be for the 1 person in charge of programming the tabulators to program them to not count accurately and skew the counting of the ballots? Compare this to having many people involved at the precinct level counting the ballots before they are taken to the auditors office at the end of the day. The election by the people of a new auditor in Minnehaha County, SD vs the ongoing appointments in the past, by the powers that be, may have been the key ingredient in forcing ES&S to do their best to make sure that those tabulators were going to count as accurately as possible. ES&S knew that the new auditor was going to, if at all possible, do a 100% hand count audit and that could have ended their business forever. The hand count proved that the tabulators are CAPABLE of counting fairly accurately, but that those tabulators are not capable of identifying voter intent on ballots where the voter crossed out a vote for one candidate and then voted for another candidate, among other things. This negates that voters vote completely. Hand counting provides the ultimate in transparency with a team of 4 people all having to agree on voter intent on each and every race on each and every ballot. This in turn creates elections that are instantly auditable and greatly decreases the opportunity for funny business, while greatly increasing the confidence that WE THE PEOPLE have in our elections. Especially when, and if, we educate the public on the difference between the two options.

Below we will show you examples of how much we are overpaying for the use of these tabulators, but before we do that let's examine some simple math when it comes to hand counting. We have run multiple training sessions for hand counting. Once people are taught how to efficiently count ballots in teams of four (2 democrats and 2 republicans) just like was done years ago before the tabulators were thrust upon us; they can count 100 ballots per hour with 10 races. Those who have attended the training will attest to the fact that in less than a half an hour they can be taught the process and practice what they were taught. With that in mind if each person was paid \$25 per hour that equals \$100 for 100 ballots or **\$1 per ballot!** This is if no one chooses to volunteer their time because they believe it is their civic duty as a citizen of our state and the United States of America. Therefore, it would take 10 hours for a table of four to count 1,000 ballots with 10 races at a cost of \$1,000 or 2.5 hours for 4 tables of four people to count 1,000 ballots with 10 races at the same cost of \$1,000.

The above does not take into account that if a ballot only has 5 races to count it will take half as much time and manpower to hand count and those same 100 ballots could be counted by a team of four in 30 minutes or only **50 cents per ballot!**

Below are three examples of what the largest, smallest, and one mid-size county by ballots cast paid to ES&S in 2023 and 2024 and how many votes were cast in the 2024 primary and general elections in each of those counties. Keep in mind that the amounts paid are only for service, etc. but not the actual cost of purchasing the tabulators which were done many years ago.

The largest county, Minnehaha, had 95,648 ballots cast in the 2024 general and 13,058 in the 2024 primary elections. They paid ES&S \$75,493.70 in 2023 when there were no elections and another \$156,904.45 in 2024 for a total of \$232,398.15. So if WE THE PEOPLE paid \$232,398.15 to have a total of 108,706 ballots counted by an out of state company that equals a little over **\$2.13 per ballot** not counting what we paid local citizens to man the precincts and process all the absentee ballots, etc., etc. With that in mind Minnehaha County overpaid by approximately \$123,692 for the 2024 elections.

Davison County had 9,335 ballots cast in the 2024 general and 4,422 in the 2024 primary elections. They paid ES&S \$14,852.94 in 2023 when there were no elections and another \$41,437.99 in 2024 for a total of \$56,290.93. So if WE THE PEOPLE paid \$56,290.93 to have a total of 13,757 ballots counted by an out of state company that equals to a little over **\$4.09 per ballot** not counting what we paid local citizens to man the precincts and process all the absentee ballots, etc., etc. With that in mind Davison county overpaid by approximately \$42,533 for the 2024 elections.

The smallest county, Campbell, had 847 ballots cast in the 2024 general and 312 ballots cast in the 2024 primary elections. They paid ES&S \$1,842.76 in the 2023 when there were no elections and \$3,895.80 in 2024 for a total of \$5,738.56. So if WE THE PEOPLE paid \$5,738.56 to have 1,159 ballots counted by an out of state company that equals to a little over **\$4.95 per ballot** not counting what we paid local citizens to man the precincts and process all the absentee ballots, etc., etc. With that in mind Campbell County overpaid by approximately \$4,579 for the 2024 elections.

We know that Minnehaha, Pennington, Lincoln and Davison counties have paid over \$3.5 million to ES&S since 2014. Since those counties represented 45% of the ballots cast in the 2024 general election it would not be out of line to assume that ES&S has been paid well over \$8 million by all the counties combined in the state of SD since 2014, Especially when you take in to consideration that the smaller the county the more they are paying per ballot for the services that number could very well approach \$10 million dollars or maybe even more.

As you can see this is nothing more than simple math and the vast majority, if they knew this information, would agree that it makes much more sense to get our citizens more involved in the process (unless of course the powers that be do not want the citizens involved in their government) and keep the dollars local for those who choose to be paid so those dollars can help our local economy and its residents.

We have been amazed over the last few years of talking to the public about this that once they are educated on how hand counting really works and the costs vs the machines and the costs they are overwhelmingly in favor of the hand counting. The only ones who are not, even after education, are those who are profiting thru power and/or money by keeping the status quo. As they say "those convinced against their will are of the same opinion still!"

Mick Baruth
Dale Buse

Attached is a printout from the general election in November 2022 that proves how candidates right here in SD had votes reported actually go down in a matter of minutes. How does someone lose votes???

Also attached you will find how much money Minnehaha, Pennington, Lincoln and Davison Counties have paid to ES&S for election hardware, software and services since 2013.

Over \$3,522,640.70 from 4 counties in SD!!! It is over that because we do not have how much Lincoln County spent in 2014 and 2015 included. Also, not included, is the amount that those four counties spent to hire more attorneys, than the ones they already employee, in order to block WE THE PEOPLE from seeing the cast vote records. The cast vote records are the scanned image and digital copy of each ballot that are to be used to prove that the results that are reported to the public are accurate. According to the federal election laws and ES&S's own handbooks those cast vote records are **designed and required to be public records** specifically to give the citizens transparency and confidence in our elections.

Let's imagine that you call your bank or investment company to get the balance on your account and they tell you the balance over the phone but when you ask them to send you a printout of any and all transactions on your account they tell you they can not do that???

So for over \$3.5 million dollars it is very easy to prove that we are getting questionable results instead of transparency and confidence that our elections are actually proving the will of the people. The fact that these counties paid to fight the release of these cast vote records alone tells us everything we need to know.

Even though we have proven through the threat and use of hand count audits the tabulators are CAPABLE of counting close to accurate this is a lot of money spent and those machines can not recognize voter intent like people can with hand counting all the ballots in the precinct. Hand counting in the precincts, with

groups of four people, gives WE THE PEOPLE extra layers of confidence in the fact that the people who actually did the counting can ensure that the results they got were accurately reported by the auditors office. It also involves more people in the process and when we ask the people in our precincts about their confidence in the machines to provide accurate results we get much more than 50% of both democrats and republicans who say they do not trust these machines.

Hand counting in the precincts is and will be far cheaper even if no one volunteers their time because they consider it a civic duty. It will keep the money in the county, involve more of the people in the county in the process and increase the confidence that our taxpaying citizens have in the results of our elections.

I challenge you to share this information with your constituents at the upcoming cracker barrels or any other way that you communicate with them. We all know that if the public was actually informed of these facts they would overwhelmingly reject having all this money be sent out of state to get questionable results.

Thank you for your time and thank you for your service to the people of the state of South Dakota!

Sincerely,
Mick Baruth

P.S. for all the election information you could ever want feel free to visit sdcanvassing.com

WHAT??? VOTE DROPS IN SOUTH DAKOTA TOO? MONAE JOHNSON CANDIDATE FOR SOS LOST 4,000 VOTES IN MINUTES.

2022 Election Night Data Report

During the election night a volunteer download every 5 minutes the election results spreadsheet data from the SD SOS Web Site. Most data seems fine, until you take a closer look at some races where the vote totals dropped....this is highly unusual and requires further explanation as to why and how this can happen.

Here is what we found in the legislative races.

RaceID	RaceName	PartyCode	AreaType	AreaNum	OfficeSeq	BallotOrder	CandidateID	CandidateName	CurrentDate	Time	VoteFor	CandidateVotes	CandidatePercentage
10260	State Representative REP		District 02	310	16876	David Kull			11/9/2022	4:35	2	1205	0.39894427
10260	State Representative REP		District 02	310	16876	David Kull			11/9/2022	4:40	2	1188	0.40094488
10260	State Representative REP		District 02	310	16876	David Kull			11/9/2022	4:45	2	2130	0.417391094
10260	State Representative DEM		District 02	310	16936	Gary Leighton			11/9/2022	4:35	2	773	0.218637313
10260	State Representative DEM		District 02	310	16936	Gary Leighton			11/9/2022	4:40	2	816	0.207197491
10260	State Representative DEM		District 02	310	16936	Gary Leighton			11/9/2022	4:45	2	1161	0.218152759
10269	State Representative REP		District 02	310	16877	John Sjaarda			11/9/2022	4:35	2	1220	0.39114206
10269	State Representative REP		District 02	310	16877	John Sjaarda			11/9/2022	4:40	2	1159	0.391157613
10396	State Senator REP		District 02	300	16841	Steve Kolbeck			11/9/2022	4:35	1	1932	0.374056147
10396	State Senator REP		District 02	300	16841	Steve Kolbeck			11/9/2022	4:40	1	1932	
10396	State Senator REP		District 02	300	16841	Steve Kolbeck			11/9/2022	4:45	1	2038	
10423	State Representative REP		District 12	310	16885	Amber Arlitt			11/9/2022	4:35	2	2785	0.263751922
10423	State Representative REP		District 12	310	16885	Amber Arlitt			11/9/2022	5:00	2	2578	0.267178345
10423	State Representative REP		District 12	310	16885	Amber Arlitt			11/9/2022	5:05	2	2768	0.263751922
10423	State Representative DEM		District 12	310	17195	Erin Royer			11/9/2022	4:35	2	2152	0.320844131
10423	State Representative DEM		District 12	310	17195	Erin Royer			11/9/2022	5:00	2	1851	0.321595576
10423	State Representative DEM		District 12	310	17195	Erin Royer			11/9/2022	5:05	2	2192	0.320844131
10423	State Representative REP		District 12	310	16886	Greg Jamison			11/9/2022	4:35	2	2745	0.281394157
10423	State Representative REP		District 12	310	16886	Greg Jamison			11/9/2022	5:00	2	2558	0.284950419
10423	State Representative REP		District 12	310	16886	Greg Jamison			11/9/2022	5:05	2	2745	0.281394157
10423	State Representative DEM		District 12	310	17196	Kristin Hayward			11/9/2022	4:35	2	2085	0.314249161
10423	State Representative DEM		District 12	310	17196	Kristin Hayward			11/9/2022	5:00	2	1725	0.316111025
10423	State Representative DEM		District 12	310	17196	Kristin Hayward			11/9/2022	5:05	2	2090	0.314249161
10308	State Senator REP		District 12	300	17040	Arch Beal			11/9/2022	4:35	1	2971	0.540178319
10308	State Senator REP		District 12	300	17040	Arch Beal			11/9/2022	5:00	1	2766	0.547727772
10308	State Senator REP		District 12	300	17040	Arch Beal			11/9/2022	5:05	1	2971	0.540178319
10308	State Senator DEM		District 12	300	17041	Jessica Meyers			11/9/2022	4:35	1	2527	0.459025672
10308	State Senator DEM		District 12	300	17041	Jessica Meyers			11/9/2022	5:00	1	2264	0.459217125
10308	State Senator DEM		District 12	300	17041	Jessica Meyers			11/9/2022	5:05	1	2527	0.459025672
10520	State Senator REP		District 28	300	17281	Ryan M. Maher			11/9/2022	3:55	1	129	1
10520	State Senator REP		District 28	300	17281	Ryan M. Maher			11/9/2022	4:00	1	168	1
10520	State Senator REP		District 28	300	17281	Ryan M. Maher			11/9/2022	4:05	1	216	1
10475	State Representative DEM		District 28A	310	17217	Oren Liepmester			11/9/2022	3:55	1	65	0.641717171
10475	State Representative DEM		District 28A	310	17217	Oren Liepmester			11/9/2022	4:00	1	75	0.641540946
10475	State Representative DEM		District 28A	310	17217	Oren Liepmester			11/9/2022	4:05	1	100	0.641622203
10475	State Representative REP		District 28A	310	17216	Ralph Lyon			11/9/2022	3:55	1	67	0.456262896
10475	State Representative REP		District 28A	310	17216	Ralph Lyon			11/9/2022	4:00	1	2	0.654854264
10475	State Representative REP		District 28A	310	17216	Ralph Lyon			11/9/2022	4:05	1	69	0.401162791

All times are based on Greenwich Mean Time....(6 hours ahead of Central Standard Time)

Only one race was affected in the constitutional offices, and that was the SOS Candidate Monae Johnson's race.

10247	Secretary of State REP			210	17550	Monae Jol			11/9/2022	2:25	1	24031	0.7481631
10247	Secretary of State REP			210	17550	Monae Jol			11/9/2022	2:30	1	20261	0.6244722
10247	Secretary of State REP			210	17550	Monae Jol			11/9/2022	2:35	1	23194	0.6200775

All times are based on Greenwich Mean Time....(6 hours ahead of Central Standard Time)

In the County Races there are several races affected by data flips, but we looked at the entire state, and only one county exhibited errors, Minnehaha County.:

RaceID	RaceName	PartyCode	AreaType	AreaNum	OfficeSeq	BallotOrder	Candidate1	Candidate1	CurrentDateTime	VoteFor	Candidate1	Candidate1 P
10550	County Cor REP		Minnehaha	470			17307 Gerald Ber		11/9/2022 4:30	3	6298	0.227135
10550	County Cor REP		Minnehaha	470			17307 Gerald Ber		11/9/2022 4:40	3	6220	0.227664
10550	County Cor REP		Minnehaha	470			17307 Gerald Ber		11/9/2022 4:47	3	10143	0.229319
10550	County Cor REP		Minnehaha	470			17305 Jen Bleyent		11/9/2022 4:30	3	6129	0.22104
10550	County Cor REP		Minnehaha	470			17305 Jen Bleyent		11/9/2022 4:40	3	6059	0.221771
10550	County Cor REP		Minnehaha	470			17305 Jen Bleyent		11/9/2022 4:47	3	9806	0.2217
10550	County Cor REP		Minnehaha	470			17304 Joe Kippley		11/9/2022 4:30	3	6053	0.218299
10550	County Cor REP		Minnehaha	470			17304 Joe Kippley		11/9/2022 4:40	3	5982	0.218952
10550	County Cor REP		Minnehaha	470			17304 Joe Kippley		11/9/2022 4:47	3	9771	0.220908
10437	County Auc REP		Minnehaha	410			16904 Leah Ande		11/9/2022 4:30	1	7066	0.591396
10437	County Auc REP		Minnehaha	410			16904 Leah Ande		11/9/2022 4:40	1	6979	0.593049
10437	County Auc REP		Minnehaha	410			16904 Leah Ande		11/9/2022 4:47	1	11400	0.598425
10550	County Cor DEM		Minnehaha	470			17308 Nichole Ca		11/9/2022 4:30	3	4671	0.168458
10550	County Cor DEM		Minnehaha	470			17308 Nichole Ca		11/9/2022 4:40	3	4579	0.1676
10550	County Cor DEM		Minnehaha	470			17308 Nichole Ca		11/9/2022 4:47	3	7321	0.165517
10550	County Cor DEM		Minnehaha	470			17306 Tom Holme		11/9/2022 4:30	3	4577	0.165068
10550	County Cor DEM		Minnehaha	470			17306 Tom Holme		11/9/2022 4:40	3	4481	0.164013
10550	County Cor DEM		Minnehaha	470			17306 Tom Holme		11/9/2022 4:47	3	7190	0.162556

All times are based on Greenwich Mean Time....(6 hours ahead of Central Standard Time)

Rick Weible

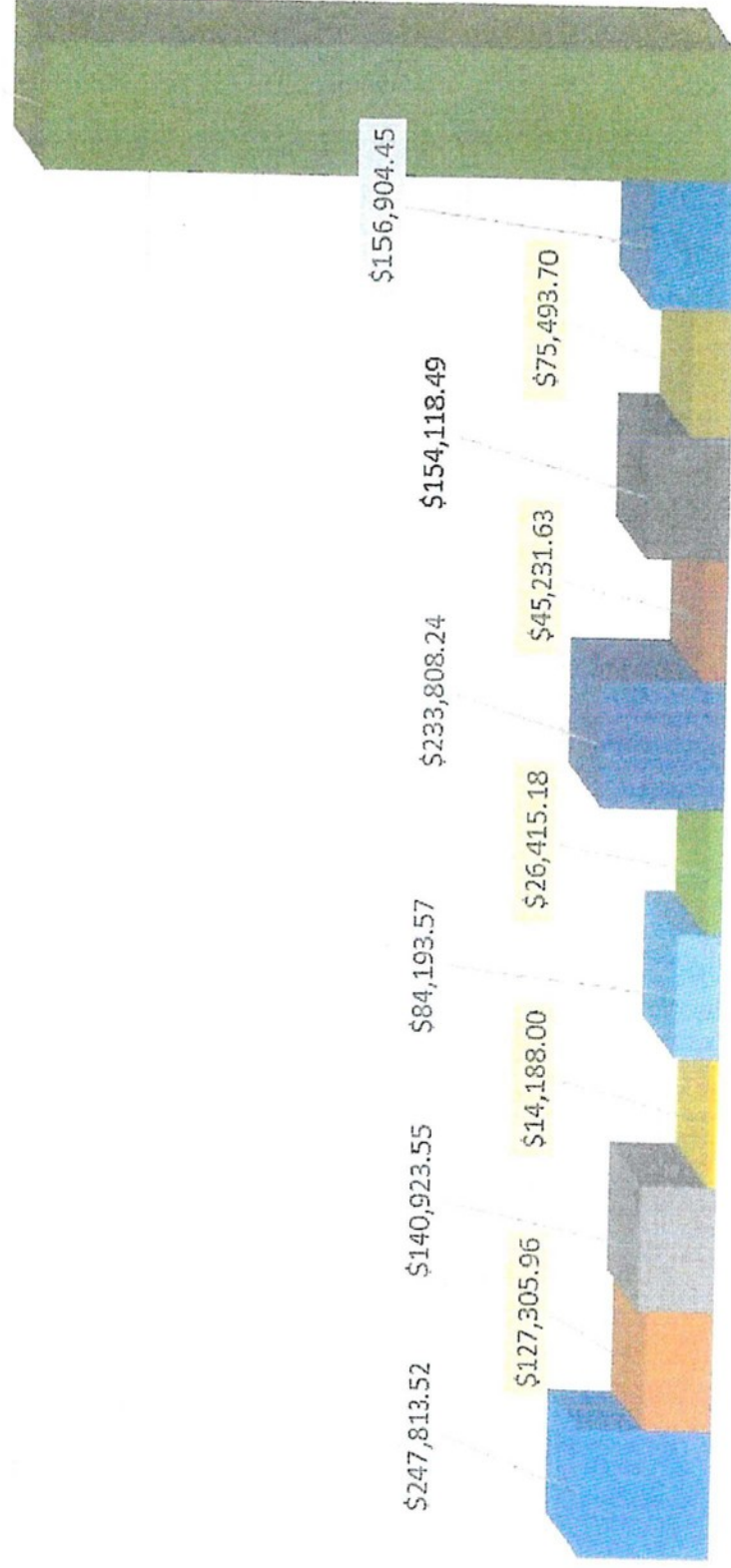
Statewide and Legislative Data Downloaded by Lincoln County Resident

County Data Downloaded by Minnehaha County Resident

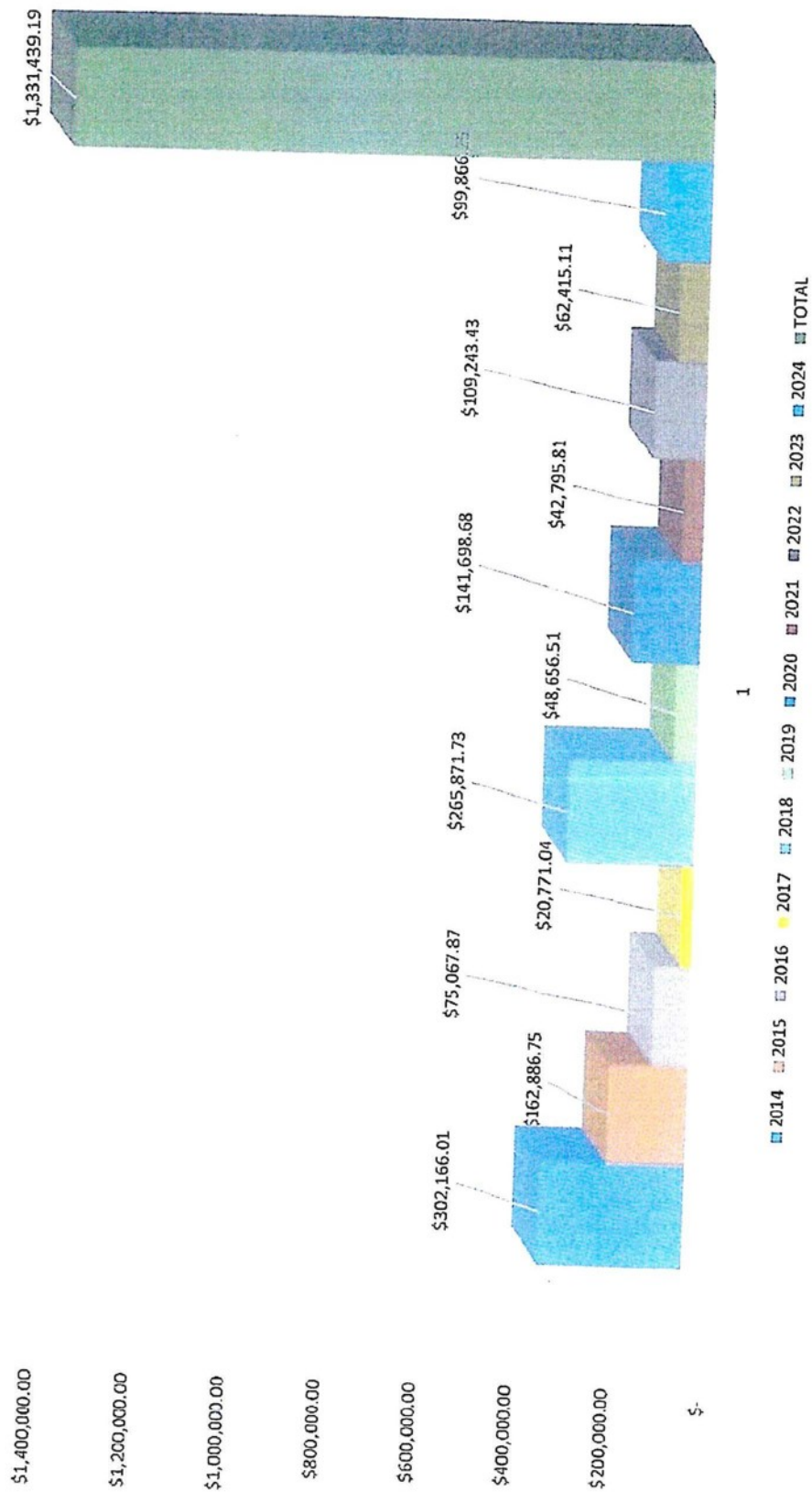
Minnehaha County ES&S Payments By Year

\$1,306,396.29

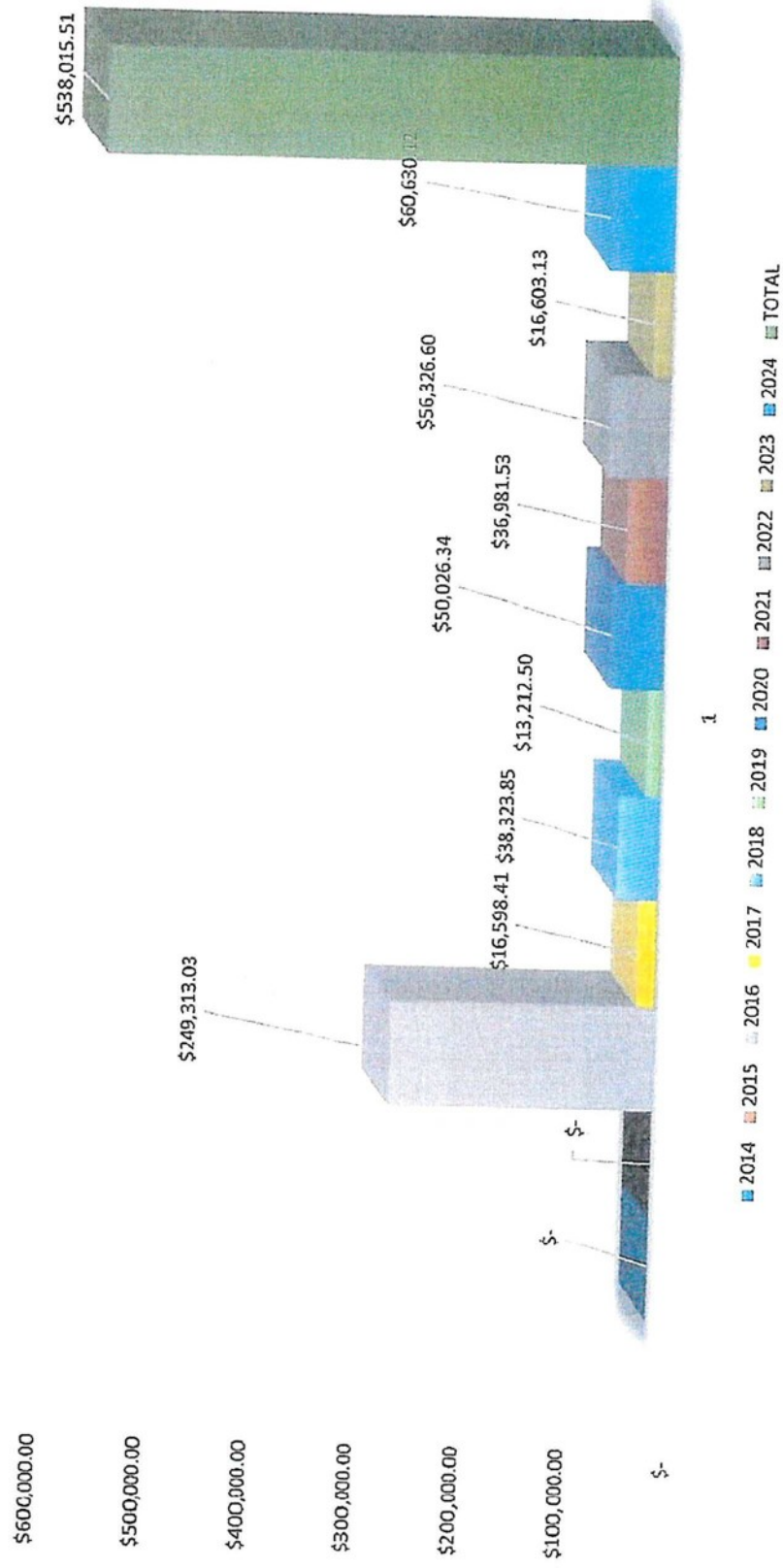
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Pennington County - ES&S Expenses by Year



Lincoln County - ES&S Expenses by Year



Davison County - ES&S Expenses by Year

