



North Dakota House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee
Chairman – Representative Jim Kasper
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Testimony

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**House Bill 1182
Urging a “Do Not Pass” Recommendation**

Good morning Chairman Kasper, Vice Chairman Koppelman and members of the Government and Veterans Affairs Committee. My name is Carrie Evans, and I am the Vice-President of the Minot City Council.

I testify today to urge you to recommend a “do not pass” on House Bill 1182. The intention of House Bill 1182 is to add party affiliation to our local elections. This is not a benign measure. While it may seem adding a party affiliation is a good idea on the surface, it is unclear why this is needed. It seems like a solution in search of a problem.

I cannot speak for our colleagues across the state, but I can tell you that not one member of the Minot City Council or Mayor has requested this bill. Moreover, when we discussed this at our meeting on Tuesday night of this week, not one member of Minot’s City Council voiced support for this measure,

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One of the appeals of running for local office is the lack of partisanship during the campaign and in the work of governing of our communities. To be sure, members of local governing bodies have differences, but at the end of day our differences are just that, and do not arise from our party affiliations. The work of local government is different than the state legislature and Congress. We have witnessed on a state and federal level partisan politics at its worst.

I urge all of you to reject this measure and to keep our local elections and governing bodies free of party affiliation.

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