

January 20, 2021

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

HB 1182

Chairman Representative Kasper and members of the committee, for the record I am Diane Affeldt, city auditor for the City of Garrison and President of the North Dakota League of Cities. I am providing written testimony today to express opposition to HB 1182, relating to party designation for candidates for county and local elections.

I would like a big DO NOT PASS from the committee on HB 1182. We need to keep partisan politics out of local government elections.

Diane Affeldt,
Garrison City Auditor
NDLC President

1/20/21

Rep. Kasper
Chairman
House Government & Veteran's Affair Committee

Dear Mr. Kasper,

This letter is to inform you that I am opposed to having City Council election candidates select a political party when they run for office.

I have worked for the City of Bottineau for 33 years & I can tell you that there is no need for party politics at this level. Recent unfortunate activities in our nation back this up as well. Let's leave those things to others.

Thank you for your time & consideration!

Penny J Nostdahl
City Auditor, City of Bottineau

Chairman Kasper and members of the House Government and Veteran Affairs,

For the record, I am Lee Anderson, Mayor of the City of Casselton, and I would like to share my opinion of HB 1182 as I understand it.

I do not feel local government has the need for any declarations of party affiliation for those people interested in running for local office and serving their communities.

You just have to look at what has been happening in Washington, and across the nation to see that we have enough problems with people having to take sides, not because of issue differences but simply because it doesn't necessarily serve the party's agenda.

Please put this notion to bed once and for all.

Thankyou for your time.

Lee Anderson

Mayor, City of Casselton

Blake Crosby

From: jtheidorn@ictc.com
Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 6:34 PM
To: Blake Crosby
Subject: Re: HB 1182. Responses needed ASAP

I DO NOT think that a person running for a Mayor or Council should declare a political party . Its hard enough to get people to run for these positions in a small town without this ! Im an independent voter and have been elected several times without people knowing what political party I support at the time . No No No

Thank You
Jim Heidorn
Mayor Page ND

On 2021-01-20 11:37, North Dakota League of Cities wrote:

> Reminder from last Friday call. Hearing tomorrow at 8:30 so not much
> time. Sorry.

>
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> to require candidates running for local office to declare a political
> party. That same bill is back as HB 1182 except the declaration of a
> political party is now optional. My reaction is that making it
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> If you want to make your views known, please send your testimony to me
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> Just give your position, and a sentence or two why. Also your name,
> city and title. Please share this email with city council and city
> commissioners.

>
> Committee is House Government and Veterans Affairs. Chairman is Rep.
> Kasper.

>
> Blake

>
> R Blake Crosby

>
> ND League of Cities | _Executive Director_

>
> 410 E Front Ave | Bismarck, ND 58504

>
> 701-223-3518 800-472-2692

Blake Crosby

From: Susan Steinke <Rugbycitysue@outlook.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 5:20 PM
To: Blake Crosby
Subject: Re: HB 1182. Responses needed ASAP

Blake:

When I ran for Mayor, I dropped all partisan affiliation.

I wanted the residents to understand that I represented all of the citizens who lived in Rugby, not just the party I had previously been affiliated with.

I wanted to walk the walk and not just talk the talk.

I do not believe that partisan politics be it Democrat, Republican, Libertarian or any other affiliation has any place in local government.

Susan Steinke

Mayor

City of Rugby

From: postmaster@membeemail.com <postmaster@membeemail.com> on behalf of North Dakota League of Cities <blake@ndlc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 11:37 AM
To: rugbycitysue@outlook.com <rugbycitysue@outlook.com>
Subject: HB 1182. Responses needed ASAP

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Committee is House Government and Veterans Affairs. Chairman is Rep. Kasper.

Blake

R Blake Crosby

ND League of Cities | *Executive Director*
410 E Front Ave | Bismarck, ND 58504
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As Mayor of Fargo and one of five members of the Fargo Board of City Commissioners, I must express my opposition to House Bill 1182. The nonpartisan local elections are not a place to announce allegiance or ties to any specific political party. Foregoing political designations allows voters to objectively weigh the merits of candidates in local races based on candidates' track records and platforms rather than their party. Remaining nonpartisan also allows City Commissioners to speak with the legislative body purely as representatives of the City of Fargo without injecting partisan politics. I would not want to jeopardize the excellent relationships the commission has with legislative leaders or impede upon our open and honest communication with the Legislature.

In this time of ever-growing political derision, adding party distinctions to local elections simply does improve governance. Additionally, it is important to note the City of Fargo utilizes an approval-voting process, which adds an additional challenge to incorporation of this idea. Cooperation between elected officials of different beliefs is vital in the mission of all municipalities providing services to. Partisan politics do not belong in local elections, and I implore the Committee to oppose HB 1182 for these reasons.

- **Dr. Timothy J. Mahoney**
Mayor, The City of Fargo

Blake Crosby

From: Sheila Klevgard <cassaudit@casselton.org>
Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 4:57 PM
To: Blake Crosby
Subject: HB 1182

Chairman Kasper and members of the House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee.

I am Sheila Klevgard from the City of Casselton and I am the city auditor. I am opposed to HB 1182 as we don't need declaration of political party causing people to sway their opinion of a candidate. A candidate's support should be based on the candidate's own merit. This is especially bad when there is so much division between political parties and could tear a small city apart.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sheila K Klevgard
Casselton City Auditor
702 1st St N, PO Box 548
Casselton, ND 58012
Phone: 701-347-4861 ext. 10
Fax: 701-347-4505

<https://www.facebook.com/City-of-Casselton-118086345496953>

Blake Crosby

From: Nick Parslow <nickparslow@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 3:36 PM
To: Blake Crosby
Subject: Re: HB 1182. Responses needed ASAP

My name is Nick Parslow. I'm mayor of the city of Leeds. I do not believe having a party affiliation on the ballot for city level government is a good idea. Optional or not I believe having party affiliation on the ballot would be a too much of a factor depending on your location. Example, having an R next to your name with all but make it a slam dunk in rural communities and all but make it impossible for a Democrat. Vice versa having an R next to your name in larger cities like Fargo or Grand Forks would make it extremely difficult and make it much more likely for the candidate with the D next to his or her name. City level politics and county level politics should not be about partisanship it should be about what's best for your Local demographic. You should not be aided or hindered because of your political outlook at a federal level. Republican and Democrat should have zero to do with local politics. I believe it would be a mistake at the state level to force or even give the option to local level to inject partisanship into their city government. It's a huge hurdle but nobody needs at that level.

Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 20, 2021, at 11:37 AM, North Dakota League of Cities <blake@ndlc.org> wrote:

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If you want to make your views known, please send your testimony to me ASAP and I will submit on your behalf. Your testimony can be short. Just give your position, and a sentence or two why. Also your name, city and title. Please share this email with city council and city commissioners.

Committee is House Government and Veterans Affairs. Chairman is Rep. Kasper.

Blake

R Blake Crosby

ND League of Cities | *Executive Director*

410 E Front Ave | Bismarck, ND 58504

Testimony on HB 1182

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 1182. I do not support this bill and am asking that this bill not be considered. I think it is important to leave partisan politics out of local governments. The partisan environment that we are currently facing in the country should not flow into our counties, small communities, and townships. Even though this bill is written in a way that gives you a choice on political orientation, I think it still may deter individuals from serving on these local boards. Most of these individuals are not pursuing a political career, they are stepping up and serving their communities to make it better. We don't need to insert partisanship into local elections, it will only make it more uncomfortable to serve and possibly more costly.

Thank you for your time today and allowing me to testify against this bill.

Luke Anderson
City Council President
Forman, ND



City of Cavalier
301 Division Ave N
P.O. Box 750
Cavalier, ND 58220
Ph. 701.265.8800
Fax 701.265.8720

CAVALIER

January 20, 2021

RE: HB 1182

To Whom It May Concern:

In a time where we are trying to build unity, declaring a political party at the local government level only creates unnecessary division. Party politics do not belong in local government as it distracts from community issues. As the mayor of Cavalier, I do my best to focus less on political party policies and more on what policies are best for the citizens of my community. I do not think HB 1182 is best for the citizens of Cavalier or North Dakota.

Lacey Hinkle
Mayor of Cavalier

Mayor
Lacey Hinkle

Council Ward I
Craig Vaughn
Sara Stevenson

Council Ward II
Mike Carpenter
Kelly Cluchie

Council Ward III
Tom Beard
Al Berry

Blake Crosby

From: City of Davenport <davenportnd@outlook.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 3:14 PM
To: Blake Crosby
Subject: RE: HB 1182. Responses needed ASAP

Dear Mr. Blake; in regards to HB 1182, I urge you to submit my opinion/stance on my behalf.

Offering "optional declaration of a political party" is just allowing partisan politics in local government to raise its ugly head.

I urge the committee recommend to vote no/do not pass HB 1182 and let it die in committee.

Best regards,
Mark Roster
City of Davenport Auditor
PO Box 217
115 Fourth Ave
Davenport, ND 58021
Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [North Dakota League of Cities](#)
Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 11:37 AM
To: davenportnd@outlook.com
Subject: HB 1182. Responses needed ASAP

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Blake

R Blake Crosby

ND League of Cities | *Executive Director*

410 E Front Ave | Bismarck, ND 58504

Blake Crosby

From: Matt Thorpe <matthorpe@drtel.net>
Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 2:54 PM
To: Blake Crosby
Subject: Re: HB 1182. Responses needed ASAP

I am not in favor of this bill, by declaring affiliation this adds possibly a conflict in local government

Thanks

Matt Thorpe
Mayor
City of Ellendale

On Jan 20, 2021, at 11:36 AM, North Dakota League of Cities <blake@ndlc.org> wrote:

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Blake

R Blake Crosby

ND League of Cities | *Executive Director*

410 E Front Ave | Bismarck, ND 58504

701-223-3518 800-472-2692

Blake Crosby

From: Marlyn Vatne <marlynvatne@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 2:51 PM
To: Blake Crosby
Subject: Re: HB 1182. Responses needed ASAP

I oppose any bill that puts a party in city politics. We have too much partisan politics as is!
Marlyn Vatne
Mayor
Wildrose

On Jan 20, 2021, at 11:37 AM, North Dakota League of Cities <blake@ndlc.org> wrote:

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Blake

R Blake Crosby

ND League of Cities | *Executive Director*

410 E Front Ave | Bismarck, ND 58504

701-223-3518 800-472-2692

Blake Crosby

From: Dan Lund <dlund@ictc.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 2:47 PM
To: Blake Crosby
Subject: Re: HB 1182. Responses needed ASAP

HB1182 looks like a solution looking for a problem city governments run smoothlu because we keep politics out .
Dan Lund mayor Alice ND

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 20, 2021, at 11:37 AM, North Dakota League of Cities <blake@ndlc.org> wrote:

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Blake

R Blake Crosby

ND League of Cities | *Executive Director*

410 E Front Ave | Bismarck, ND 58504

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January 20th, 2021

Dear Representative Kasper, House Government and Veterans Affairs:

I am writing to declare non-support of HB 1182, which encompasses the optional declaration of a political party among elected officials.

As a City Auditor for two small cities, I do not support encouraging candidates to choose a political party. Harwood's 2020 election was almost entirely write-in candidates, and North River's 2020 election was mostly re-elected officials with a few new officials. Obtaining new interested candidates to fill City Council positions was harder than pulling teeth last year. To have candidates declare a political party will discourage participation in elections. City leaders at the level of Harwood and North River are not politically influenced; they want to do good for their local governments, and their local residents.

As a City Councilwoman for the City of Galesburg, I strongly discourage passing HB 1182. City Council meetings are to be business based, with the mindset of "What is the best for our city residents?". I feel once a political party is tied to an elected official's name that there will be drama within a city. Candidates who want to represent and enrich their hometowns may be judged based on their political beliefs, and small towns will lose hard working city representatives.

Thank you for your time,

Casey Eggermont
Auditor, City of Harwood
Auditor, City of North River
Councilman, City of Galesburg

Blake Crosby

From: Dan Buchanan <bulaw@daktel.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 2:09 PM
To: Sarah Hellekson
Cc: Blake Crosby
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL]HB 1182. Responses needed ASAP

Importance: High

Blake,

Please advise the committee for me that partisan politics, now disguised as an optional declaration, is totally inappropriate for candidates seeking local office. We don't do city business depending on one's political affiliation, nor is it relevant to know what party seeks business with the city. I have no idea, and couldn't care less who leans which way or another politically with whom I serve our city. Making decisions about clean water, proper solid waste disposal, street snow removal, special assessments, and many other tasks aren't colored by political affiliation. The idea proffered is pure nonsense writ large and shows excess partisanship running amok.

Dan

Blake Crosby

From: Dan Buchanan <bulaw@daktel.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 2:14 PM
To: Sarah Hellekson
Cc: Blake Crosby
Subject: Political affiliation

Forget to give my name that you already know, but tell the committee it's Dan Buchanan, Jamestown city councilperson and president of the council, serving since 2012

Dan

Blake Crosby

From: Lydia Ronningen <lnronningen@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 1:23 PM
To: Blake Crosby
Subject: HB1182

Mr Crosby,

My name is Lydia Ronningen and I'm on the Kindred Parks and Rec board. I find the idea of requiring political affiliation for local office a bit concerning. What we do for the city or parks has no relevance to our political positions and could create bias at voting time.

Thank you.
Lydia Ronningen

Sent from my iPhone

Blake Crosby

From: Dave Carlsrud <dave.carlsrud@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 1:39 PM
To: Blake Crosby
Subject: HB 1182. Testimony

Blake,

Can someone forward my short testimony below to the appropriate place? Sorry, I am having a computer issue.....

Thanks for all you folks do,

Dave

Date: 1/20/21

From: Dave Carlsrud, Mayor, Valley City, ND

Bill: Testimony for HB 1182

RE: Oppose

To whom it may concern:

We have a difficult time finding candidates for city councils and commissions without involving political parties. That I don't have a party affiliation and don't believe I could commit to either political platform, I could not run for office.

I urge you to please **oppose HB 1182** and keep political declarations to elected offices higher than mayor.

Sincerely,

Dave Carlsrud

Dave Carlsrud

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION OF HB 1182 RELATING TO PERMITTING PARTY DESIGNATIONS FOR CANDIDATES FOR COUNTY AND LOCAL ELECTIONS

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee
Meeting Scheduled at 8:30 AM 1/21/2021.

Honorable Chairman Kasper & House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee
Members:

HB 1182 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 15.1-09-08 and 16.1-11-08, subsection 1 of section 16.1-11-11, subsection 1 of section 16.1-11-16, and sections 16.1-11-19, 16.1-11-24, and 40-21-08 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to permitting party designations for candidates for county and local elections; and to repeal section 40-21-06 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to party designations for candidates for municipal offices.

I strongly **OPPOSE** the injection of political party affiliation into municipal government. Each city is unique and diverse as its elected leaders. Giving candidates the option to add their political party designation may encourage people to be subjected to outside influences and persons that have little concern or knowledge of the priorities or challenges of a North Dakota city. We have real work to do and no time for political parties and partisan politics.

Submitted with high regard;

Steve Dale, Mayor
City of Wahpeton

Blake Crosby

From: LaVonne Cameron <lavonnecameron@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 1:38 PM
To: Blake Crosby
Subject: Re: HB 1182. Responses needed ASAP

Blake,

See my testimony below:

LaVonne Cameron, Mayor, City of Deering

I am against any placement of an option to place a declaration of a political party. Especially at this time when there is such a chasm between parties, it's important to keep politics out of the business of running a city.

Thank you
LaVonne Cameron

Sent from my iPhone

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Blake

R Blake Crosby

ND League of Cities | *Executive Director*

410 E Front Ave | Bismarck, ND 58504

Blake Crosby

From: Mcville City Auditor <mcvillend@gondtc.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 12:48 PM
To: Blake Crosby
Subject: RE: HB 1182. Responses needed ASAP

I absolutely think local government should remain nonpartisan. Party lines have no place in decisions being made for the betterment of the local tax payers.

Chanda Arneson, City Auditor

City of McVile
PO Box 275
McVile, ND 58254
(701) 322-4343

From: postmaster@membeemail.com <postmaster@membeemail.com> **On Behalf Of** North Dakota League of Cities
Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 11:37 AM
To: mcvillend@gondtc.com
Subject: HB 1182. Responses needed ASAP

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Blake

R Blake Crosby

ND League of Cities | *Executive Director*

410 E Front Ave | Bismarck, ND 58504

701-223-3518 800-472-2692

Blake Crosby

From: City of Leeds <cityofleeds@gondtc.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 12:42 PM
To: Blake Crosby
Subject: RE: HB 1182. Responses needed ASAP

If candidates were required to name a political party, many viable residents would choose not to run. Naming a political party has become a controversial thing in today's world, and many choose to keep their beliefs and party affiliations close to their chest. It is difficult to get people involved and willing to serve in our small communities. This bill would deter many from placing their name on the ballot for a local office.

Kari Follman
City of Leeds
P O Box 331
221 Main St. W
Leeds, ND 58346
Office 701-466-2930
cityofleeds@gondtc.com

From: postmaster@membeemail.com <postmaster@membeemail.com> **On Behalf Of** North Dakota League of Cities
Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 11:37 AM
To: cityofleeds@gondtc.com
Subject: HB 1182. Responses needed ASAP

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Blake

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ND League of Cities | *Executive Director*

410 E Front Ave | Bismarck, ND 58504

701-223-3518 800-472-2692

From: Sarah Hellekson <shellekson@jamestownnd.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 12:11 PM
To: Blake Crosby <blake@ndlc.org>; Stephanie Dassinger <Stephanie@ndlc.org>
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL]HB 1182. Responses needed ASAP

The declaration of a political party is likely to limit the field for local candidates who do not want to be perceived as competing within their political parties for the same seats (school board, township, city council or commission, county commission and so on). This concept whether mandatory or appearing to be optional is severely limiting.

Sarah Hellekson

City Administrator / City Auditor

shellekson@JamestownND.gov

www.jamestownnd.gov

Main 701-252-5900 | Direct 701-952-5938

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Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 12:27 PM
To: Blake Crosby
Subject: Re: HB 1182. Responses needed ASAP

Jennifer BARTA
Commission President
Velva, ND

I do not feel it's right to have to declare what political party you are at a local level. My current beliefs in running my city is to do what is right and according to ordinances. I am not part of any political party, I am a citizen of Velva that lives my city.

On Wed, Jan 20, 2021 at 11:37 AM North Dakota League of Cities <blake@ndlc.org> wrote:

Reminder from last Friday call. Hearing tomorrow at 8:30 so not much time. Sorry.

Many of you testified, or sent in testimony, last Session on the bill to require candidates running for local office to declare a political party. That same bill is back as HB 1182 except the declaration of a political party is now optional. My reaction is that making it optional does not really change the concern you expressed that the preference among elected/appointed city officials is to keep partisan politics out of local government.

If you want to make your views known, please send your testimony to me ASAP and I will submit on your behalf. Your testimony can be short. Just give your position, and a sentence or two why. Also your name, city and title. Please share this email with city council and city commissioners.

Committee is House Government and Veterans Affairs. Chairman is Rep. Kasper.

Blake

R Blake Crosby

ND League of Cities | *Executive Director*

410 E Front Ave | Bismarck, ND 58504

701-223-3518 800-472-2692

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Jen Soli
Commission President- City of Velva



221 S. Main St.
PO Box 249
Stanley, ND 58784-0249
701-628-2225
701-628-2232 Fax
1-800-366-6888 TTY
allyn@stanleynd.us

January 18, 2021

RE: HB #1182 (1/21/2021 Hearing – 8:30 A.M.)

Dear Chair Kasper and Honorable Members of the House Government & Veterans Affairs Committee:

I am requesting you to support a **“DO NOT PASS”** on House Bill #1182 relating to permitting party designations for county and local elections.

City elective offices in our great State of North Dakota have been elected without party designation likely since statehood. Why the change, party affiliation is irrelevant to providing quality services at the local level. The decision making process amongst elected city officials is not based or influenced by party affiliation; decisions are made for the common good of all the citizens.

Further, in city elections, local candidates are known for the person they are, not for the party they are affiliated to. Do we want local candidates elected to the party they represent or for the people they represent. Keep city elected offices non-party affiliated, whether the proposed bill makes it optional.

Again, your support for a **“DO NOT PASS”** on House Bill #1182 is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Allyn Sveen
Stanley City Auditor

E-mail: District #2 & #4 House Representatives
bertanderson@nd.gov
dlongmuir@nd.gov
cfegley@nd.gov
tbjones@nd.gov

Blake Crosby

From: Shane Amundson <shane@reilesacresnd.org>
Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 11:52 AM
To: Blake Crosby
Subject: Re: HB 1182. Responses needed ASAP

Mr. Crosby,

Our collective team in Reile's Acres feel the party identification label will serve us negatively.

We feel this identification can and will foster division within our municipality. The division will be rooted solely in identity politics. We, ND cities, have thrived regardless of party and because of not identifying as Red, Blue, or Purple.

Respectfully,
Shane J. Amundson
Mayor, Reile's Acres, ND

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Blake

R Blake Crosby

ND League of Cities | *Executive Director*

410 E Front Ave | Bismarck, ND 58504

701-223-3518 800-472-2692

Blake Crosby

From: dr diode <drdiode@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 11:53 AM
To: Blake Crosby
Subject: Re: HB 1182. Responses needed ASAP

Mr. Crosby,

I'd like to express that I oppose requiring candidates running for local office to declare a political party. My role as Mayor of Sharon (as well as the members of the council) is mainly administrative. We have been asked in the past to endorse a candidate to the State Legislature but declined as we didn't feel it was appropriate for us to do so.

Sincerely,

Rick Bergenheier, Mayor
City of Sharon, ND
(701) 789-0217 Cell
(701) 524-1602 Office

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Committee is House Government and Veterans Affairs. Chairman is Rep. Kasper.

Blake

R Blake Crosby

ND League of Cities | *Executive Director*

410 E Front Ave | Bismarck, ND 58504

701-223-3518 800-472-2692

Blake Crosby

From: Jackie albrecht <jveryla@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 7:09 PM
To: Blake Crosby
Subject: HB 1182

Thank you Blake for the reminder.
Local government cannot afford to to be involved in partisan politics.

..Even if claiming a political party is listed as an optional choice it will discourage citizens for running for office. Many communities have difficulty filling positions now

..The option for a party to claim a candidate would create an unfair advantage during an election, financially (advertising and such) between candidates.

..Most importantly, decisions rendered in our local government need to be based on what is best for the citizens of our community as a whole. This is not accomplished with partisan politics but with local government officials that have invested their heart and soul into the community.

To allow partisan politics to get an edge at the local level could change the dynamics of councils, schools and all areas of local government. It would pit councilmen against each other when they need to work together. We accept testimony from all in our council meeting equally. Our congress has shown us that partisan politics does not work fairly or give the people equal representation. Before this is considered we need to take a hard look at our country's partisan politics and the bad behavior that goes on there.

I do not belong to a political party
Rugby City Council woman Ward 1
Jackie Albrecht

Blake Crosby

From: Bryan Schmidt <bschmidt@cityofhorace.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 9:38 PM
To: Blake Crosby
Cc: Brenton Holper
Subject: House bill 1182 - Opposition

Chairman Kasper and members of the House committee,

For the record, I serve as a City Council member and Council President for the City of Horace. I oppose any legislation changes that would require or allow city officials to declare a political party when running for a city position.

- 1) The focus of a city official should be to serve the community without regard for political affiliation. We should place our focus on city issues voters care about rather than if we vote in alignment with a political party.
- 2) If candidates would be required to declare a party, it may dissuade residents from serving in an elected role as it could create friction with neighbors and friends.
- 3) Declaring a political affiliation is fine at the state level. Representatives consider multiple communities and a district that leans politically left or right can choose the best candidate for their area. At the City and local level, it is much more personal in our daily duties to help our community. If politics is added to the mix when dealing with difficult resident situations it will only make matters worse. Elected officials have enough on our plate to balance the demands of our residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,

Bryan Schmidt



Bryan Schmidt | City Council

Horace, ND | www.cityofhorace.com | bschmidt@cityofhorace.com

City Hall 701-492-2972 | Mobile 701-361-2978