

Sixty-ninth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1297  
with Senate Amendments**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1297**

Introduced by

Representatives Koppelman, Heilman, Heinert, Kasper, Louser

Senators Castaneda, Clemens, Enget, Paulson, Wobbema, Larson

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 16.1-01 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to prohibiting approval voting and ranked-choice voting in elections; and  
3 to amend and reenact subsection 7 of section 11-09.1-05 and subsection 9 of section  
4 40-05.1-06 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to home rule powers in counties and  
5 cities.

6 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

7 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 7 of section 11-09.1-05 of the North Dakota  
8 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

9 7. Provide for all matters pertaining to county elections, except as to qualifications of  
10 electors and the limitations provided under section 2 of this Act.

11 **SECTION 2.** A new section to chapter 16.1-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
12 and enacted as follows:

13 **Approval voting - Ranked-choice voting - Prohibition.**

14 1. For purposes of this section:

15 a. "Approval voting" means a method in which a qualified elector may vote for all  
16 candidates the voter approves of in each race for public office, and the  
17 candidates receiving the most votes are elected until all necessary seats are  
18 filled in each race.

19 b. "Ranked-choice voting" means a method in which a qualified elector may rank  
20 candidates in a race for public office in order of preference, and all submitted  
21 ballots are tabulated in multiple rounds following the elimination of a candidate  
22 until a single candidate attains a majority of votes.

1       2. Approval voting or ranked-choice voting may not be used in an election held within this  
2       state to elect or nominate a candidate to any local, state, or federal elective office.

3       3. An ordinance enacted or adopted after January 1, 2025, by a county, city, or other  
4       political subdivision, including an ordinance enacted or adopted under a home rule  
5       charter, which conflicts with this section is void.

6       **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 9 of section 40-05.1-06 of the North Dakota  
7       Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

8       9. To provide for all matters pertaining to city elections, except as to qualifications of  
9       electors and the limitations provided under section 2 of this Act.