

1 North Dakota School Study Council Testimony in Opposition to HB 1482 – Bond
2 Elections

3 Chairman Weber and Members of the Committee,

4 Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 1482. The schools I
5 represent are opposed to this bill.

6 I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 1482. This bill would
7 significantly extend the time between elections, creating unnecessary delays and
8 financial burdens for school districts and taxpayers alike.

9 Under HB 1482, there would be over 19 months between the November 2024
10 general election and the June 2026 primary. This extended gap is far too long,
11 especially if a school district needs to address urgent facility issues or other
12 critical matters. The inability to bring these issues to voters in a timely manner
13 could negatively impact students, staff, and communities.

14 Additionally, if a bond election were to pass in November, it would be too late to
15 submit the increase to the county auditor. Schools must certify their levies by
16 October 10th, meaning a one-year delay in implementing voter-approved
17 funding. This delay could cost taxpayers significantly more due to rising costs
18 and inflation, ultimately making school improvements more expensive in the long
19 run.

20 If the intent of HB 1482 is to encourage bond elections to align with general or
21 primary elections, a more effective approach would be to incentivize districts to
22 place elections on these dates rather than restricting their ability to call elections
23 when necessary. One possible solution would be to allow bond measures on
24 general or primary election ballots to pass with a simple majority (50% plus one),
25 which is a common standard for many other measures.

26 I urge you to reconsider HB 1482 and the unintended consequences it would
27 have on school districts and local communities. Thank you for your time and
28 consideration. I would be happy to provide additional information or answer any
29 questions.

30 Again, we ask for a “Do Not Pass” on HB 1482. Thank you for your
31 consideration!

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33 Dr. Paul Stremick