

Dear Committee Members,

Don't step on our vote. Fargo citizens gathered signatures, knocked doors, advocated for, and ultimately persuaded over 30,000 other Fargo citizens to adopt Approval Voting in the general election of November, 2018. Since then, we've had repeated and successful elections using the method, electing conservatives and liberals alike, while the majority of Fargo voters both understand and *like* the change.

To that end, I'm asking you to **oppose HB 1297**. In 2018, Fargo voters exercised their rights and overwhelmingly approved approval voting for our local elections. Now, this bill doesn't just threaten to take that choice away—it would block every other city in North Dakota from ever making the same decision. *But this isn't just about Fargo.* HB 1297 strips *all* communities of the ability to improve their own elections—it **usurps local control**. Legislators should protect their constituents' vote, **not take it away**.

*If we're good enough to **vote for you**, we're good enough to **vote for policies, too**.*

When approval voting was on the Fargo ballot back in 2018, **the measure won each-and-every precinct in Fargo**—it didn't matter if the precinct was red, blue, yellow, or purple—**voters chose approval voting 2:1 in favor**. Voters wanted a system that ensures the most widely supported candidate wins. It's simple, fair, and eliminates vote-splitting. We've held three successful elections utilizing it, consistently electing leaders from across the political spectrum, all while giving voters a more powerful voice in the process.

Approval voting is working.

Elections should reflect the will of the people. Whether someone agrees with approval voting or not, overturning a voter-led-and-approved reform without a public vote on the same sets a dangerous precedent. Please respect the decision Fargo's voters made by issuing a **DO NOT PASS recommendation for HB 1297**.

Thank you for your time,
Jed Limke

★ Reform Fargo is a locally-formed-and-operated non-profit focused on streamlining and improving government that's run entirely by volunteers living in the great State of North Dakota. *We care because this is our home.*