

Wednesday, January 20, 2021

RE: House bill no. 1182

Chairman Kasper and members of the House Government & Veterans Affairs Committee:

For the record, I am from the City of Carrington and I am the City Auditor. I would oppose any legislative changes that would allow city officials to declare a political party when running for city offices.

- The focus of local elections should be on community issues and voters should vote for candidates that have similar concerns. The goal for running for city offices should be to better the city, not focus on party politics.
- While I have only been in my position for two election cycles, our city struggles with finding candidates willing to run for office. If legislative changes are made allowing the candidate to declare a political party, I feel there would be further hesitation from candidates in getting involved in city government.
- Allowing candidates to declare a political party would result in forcing all candidates to declare a political party because if a candidate left their party declaration blank, voters may make assumptions or demand that the candidate identify their political affiliation.
- Implementing these legislative changes at a local level is a distraction from the task at hand, i.e. bringing elected officials, city employees, and residents together to better serve the cities in which we live and work.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Gast". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Jennifer Gast