

## House Bill 1424

Chairman Longmuir and committee members,  
Happy to be back before your committee.

For the record, I am Representative Liz Conmy, from District 11 in Fargo.

HB 1424 is a bill that aims to clarify and make consistent the information persons must file when seeking candidacy through the North Dakota Secretary of State's office. By making the required information uniform for all candidates, the information is then more accessible to members of the public.

Currently, candidates in North Dakota are NOT required to submit their email addresses when they file for candidacy. The form simply asks for contact information, with no definition of what that entails. Some give no email address, and some candidates submit their state-issued email addresses.

I asked the Secretary of State to clarify if government email addresses broke any campaign rules and they replied that they could not give a definitive answer, so maybe. Therefore, this bill asks for non-governmental email to be used, in order to be fair to all candidates.

By requiring all candidates to submit a non-government email address and consistent contact information, we accomplish a few things:

1. Voters will have equal access to all candidates.
2. Organizations that produce voter guides will have a consistent and less expensive way to reach candidates.
3. News organizations will have have equal access to candidates

To be specific, page 1, lines 8-11 and 9-14 define specifically what contact information is required: Mailing address, phone number, and nongovernmental email address.

On page 2, lines 8 and 11 specify that the email address NOT be a government email address.

Page 3, line 11, changes the candidates certificate of endorsement that must be filed to non-governmental email address, as do lines 24 and 25, and line 4 on page 4

That concludes my presentation and I welcome any questions.

Thank you.