

Testimony to
House Political Subs
February 9, 2023
Donnell Preskey, NDACo



RE: Opposition HB 1514

Mr. Chairman and committee members, I'm Donnell Preskey with the North Dakota Association of Counties. In that role, I serve as executive director for the North Dakota County Auditors Association. County Auditors want to make sure you are aware of some of the issues that will arise with HB 1514 regarding utilizing the pollbooks to establish the threshold of votes needed for approval of a bond election.

We realize the intent with this bill is to raise the threshold for approval of bond measures. However, using pollbook data is problematic for the following reasons:

- Pollbook data represents a snapshot in time.
- ND does not have voter registration and we do not require action from the voter when the voter moves within the State or outside the state to notify the county auditor. Therefore, the voter records in the Central Voter File are only as good as the information the voters provide regarding their address or updating their address with the Department of Transportation.
- County Auditors would seek clarification on 30% of qualified voters. Does this mean active voters which includes those that voted in the last 4 election cycles. Or total of active and inactive voters in CVF?
- The 30% requirement could delay election night results reporting due to calculation of "30% of qualified voters".

If the goal of this bill is to have a greater percentage of voters voting on these community issues, a better recommendation may be to move these elections to the general or primary election.

Burleigh Qualified Voters	2022 Turnout Primary	2022 Turnout General
72005	13417 (18.63%)	35746 (49.64%)
McKenzie Qualified Voters	2022 Turnout Primary	2022 Turnout General
9360	1330 (14.2%)	3,266 (34.89%)