House Bill 1257
Senate State and Local Government Committee
March 16th, 2023

The League of Women Voters of North Dakota (LWVND) submits this testimony **in support of House Bill 1257**. We appreciate the opportunity to share our perspective.

HB 1257 amends a section of the ND Century Code so that candidates for school district office (in school districts with a fall enrollment of 750 or more) will be required to submit campaign contribution statements.

LWVND supports this bill for three reasons. The bill:

1. ensures that candidates for school district office are held to the same standard of financial transparency and compliance as candidates for other public offices in North Dakota,

2. gives school district voters an additional, and important, piece of information when deciding on preferred candidates,

3. is consistent with the LWVND's focus on empowering voters.

We understand that a similar bill, HB 1116, introduced by Representative Hoverson, connects the campaign contribution statement requirement to the district population rather than the fall school enrollment number. We hope the Committee will consult with the ND Secretary of State and/or the ND School Boards Association to determine the most appropriate standard for this requirement.

LWVND wishes to thank Representative Conmy and the other sponsors for submitting this bill, and we ask the Committee to vote in its favor.

Testimony submitted by Barbara Headrick, LWVND Board President, nodaklwv@gmail.com