



**NDSBA**  
NORTH DAKOTA SCHOOL  
BOARDS ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 7128  
Bismarck ND 58507-7128  
1-800-932-8791 • (701)255-4127  
[www.ndsba.org](http://www.ndsba.org)

**HB 1257**  
**Senate State and Local Government**  
**March 16, 2023**  
**Testimony of Alexis Baxley**

Good morning Chair Roers and members of the Senate State and Local Government Committee. My name is Alexis Baxley, and I serve as the executive director of the North Dakota School Boards Association. NDSBA represents the elected school boards of all 170 public school districts and several special education units in North Dakota.

NDSBA is supportive of election transparency. We appreciate the language requiring submission of the statement to the school district business manager. This is appropriate because business managers already collect school board candidates' statements of intent and other election documents.

We also appreciate the approach taken by Representative Conmy in regards to the limitation. As you know, candidates for city office must only submit a campaign finance report in cities with populations greater than 5,000. We feel this is a reasonable point of differentiation, but it would not work well for school districts. The of a school district is a more complicated number to figure than in a city or county. We know where our kids are – we do not always know the population of other properties within a school district. School districts do not always neatly follow the borders of cities or counties. In fact, I am aware of at least one school district that includes territory in eight – yes eight – different counties. Calculating district population would likely require school business managers to work with multiple county auditors to tally a population number. For this reason, Representative Conmy's use of school enrollment is much more appropriate. This data is readily available to districts and a number we always know. I have included in my testimony North Dakota city populations from the 2020 census. I have also included public school district enrollment from the fall of this current school year. I believe an equivalent enrollment number to a population of 5,000 would be 1,000 students. I also believe it is important that we identify a precise date of enrollment, as district enrollments shift on a daily basis in some districts. I have included a suggested amendment on the next page of my testimony. The suggested amendment language references the "September tenth fall enrollment report." School districts file this report annually, and it is the enrollment number used to calculate a district's state aid. My proposed language also includes the enrollment of 1,000 students previously mentioned. I appreciate your consideration.

I will stand for any questions.

**HB 1257, NDSBA proposed amendment**

Page 3, 16.1-08.1-02.3, sub 5

*5. A candidate for city office in a city with a population under five thousand and a candidate committee for the candidate are exempt from this section. A candidate for school district office in a school district with ~~a fall~~ an enrollment of less than ~~seven hundred fifty~~ 1,000 students as reflected in the district's most recent September tenth fall enrollment report and a candidate committee for the candidate are exempt from this section.*

**North Dakota 2020 Census  
Population by City**

105 Fargo city	125,990	261 Pembina city	512	316 Streeeter city	149	41 Briarwood city	57
35 Bismarck city	73,622	114 Forman city	509	348 Willow City city	149	64 Cleveland city	57
137 Grand Forks city	59,166	31 Berthold city	490	205 Makoti city	148	273 Prairie Rose city	56
226 Minot city	48,377	286 Rollette city	484	174 Kensal city	146	248 North River city	55
343 West Fargo city	38,626	16 Argusville city	480	54 Carpio city	144	340 Warwick city	55
347 Williston city	29,160	326 Towner city	479	195 Lignite city	141	4 Alamo city	53
83 Dickinson city	25,679	106 Fessenden city	462	69 Columbus city	139	135 Grace City city	53
206 Mandan city	24,206	355 Wymdmer city	454	94 Edmore city	139	246 Nome city	51
169 Jamestown city	15,849	99 Emerado city	443	38 Bowdon city	137	141 Great Bend city	49
336 Wahpeton city	8,007	190 Leeds city	442	247 Noonan city	137	285 Rogers city	49
81 Devils Lake city	7,192	130 Glenburn city	404	324 Tolna city	136	25 Bathgate city	47
331 Valley City city	6,575	204 Maddock city	402	330 Upham city	135	147 Hamilton city	46
342 Watford City city	6,207	108 Finley city	401	351 Wing city	132	245 Niagara city	46
196 Lincoln city	4,257	306 South Heart city	394	124 Gardner city	129	335 Voltaire city	46
136 Grafton city	4,170	218 McVillie city	392	3 Adams city	127	354 Woodworth city	44
165 Horace city	3,085	272 Powers Lake city	385	297 Selfridge city	127	353 Wolford city	43
32 Beulah city	3,058	255 Oxbow city	381	150 Hannaford city	126	82 Dickey city	42
243 New Town city	2,764	315 Strasburg city	379	210 Marion city	125	6 Alice city	41
289 Rugby city	2,509	208 Manvel city	377	257 Palermo city	125	183 Landa city	41
57 Casselton city	2,479	344 Westhope city	374	270 Portal city	125	267 Pingree city	41
311 Stanley city	2,321	180 Kulm city	368	275 Reeder city	125	323 Tully city	41
159 Hazen city	2,281	312 Stanton city	368	265 Pick City city	123	24 Barney city	40
198 Lisbon city	2,204	49 Buxton city	348	220 Medora city	121	60 Cayuga city	40
322 Tioga city	2,202	237 Neche city	344	122 Galesburg city	118	224 Milton city	39
36 Bottineau city	2,194	104 Fairmount city	343	75 Crystal city	116	118 Fredonia city	38
55 Carrington city	2,080	166 Hunter city	332	346 Wildrose city	115	168 Inkster city	38
184 Langdon city	1,909	213 Max city	331	252 Oriska city	114	305 Souris city	37
215 Mayville city	1,854	18 Arthur city	328	73 Crary city	113	308 Springbrook city	37
250 Oakes city	1,798	310 St. Thomas city	323	34 Bisbee city	110	72 Courtenay city	36
153 Harvey city	1,650	216 McClusky city	322	113 Forest River city	109	111 Forbes city	36
162 Hillsboro city	1,649	309 St. John city	322	292 Ryder city	108	283 Robinson city	36
39 Bowman city	1,470	5 Alexander city	319	134 Goodrich city	106	276 Regan city	35
125 Garrison city	1,462	295 Sawyer city	319	253 Osnabrock city	105	43 Brocket city	34
258 Park River city	1,424	37 Bowbells city	301	318 Sykeston city	105	8 Alsen city	32
241 New Rockford city	1,361	87 Drake city	292	185 Lankin city	102	95 Egeland city	32
317 Surrey city	1,357	17 Arnegard city	282	211 Marmarth city	101	15 Ardoch city	31
209 Mapleton city	1,320	121 Gackle city	281	251 Oberon city	101	30 Berlin city	31
341 Washburn city	1,300	279 Reynolds city	277	7 Almont city	100	53 Canton City (Hensel)	31
47 Burlington city	1,291	164 Hope city	272	313 Starkweather city	100	238 Nekoma city	31
187 Larimore city	1,260	128 Gladstone city	271	345 White Earth city	100	42 Brinsmade city	30
59 Cavalier city	1,246	325 Tower City city	268	307 Spiritwood Lake city	97	65 Clifford city	30
287 Rolla city	1,223	219 Medina city	264	244 Newburg city	96	103 Fairdale city	30
97 Ellendale city	1,125	222 Michigan City city	263	288 Ross city	95	117 Fortuna city	30
52 Cando city	1,117	337 Walcott city	260	300 Sheldon city	95	229 Monango city	30
321 Thompson city	1,101	296 Scranton city	258	79 Deering city	94	148 Hampden city	29
332 Velva city	1,086	76 Davenport city	256	131 Glenfield city	94	192 Leith city	28
161 Hettinger city	1,074	56 Carson city	254	284 Rocklake city	94	203 Luverne city	28
197 Linton city	1,071	193 Leonard city	248	86 Douglas city	93	189 Leal city	27
74 Crosby city	1,065	163 Hoople city	247	107 Fingal city	92	9 Ambrose city	24
27 Belfield city	996	2 Abercrombie city	244	102 Esmond city	91	11 Amidon city	24
71 Cooperstown city	983	127 Gilby city	243	115 Fort Ransom city	91	98 Elliott city	24
249 Northwood city	982	145 Halliday city	241	84 Dodge city	89	123 Gardena city	24
26 Beach city	981	140 Granville city	240	214 Maxbass city	89	179 Kramer city	24
242 New Salem city	973	186 Lansford city	238	268 Pisek city	89	14 Antler city	22
173 Kenmare city	961	13 Aneta city	234	221 Mercer city	88	178 Knox city	22
259 Parshall city	949	121 Anamoose city	230	44 Buchanan city	87	126 Gascoyne city	21
176 Killdeer city	939	320 Taylor city	230	171 Karlsruhe city	87	235 Mylo city	21
143 Gwinner city	924	89 Dunn Center city	227	299 Sharon city	86	333 Ventura city	21
149 Hankinson city	921	158 Hazelton city	223	10 Amenia city	85	21 Balfour city	20
339 Wahalla city	893	282 Riverdale city	223	230 Montpelier city	85	58 Cathay city	20
177 Kindred city	889	142 Grenora city	221	101 Epping city	84	303 Sibley city	19
100 Enderlin city	881	357 Zap city	221	133 Golva city	84	40 Braddock city	18
352 Wishek city	864	240 New Leipzig city	218	358 Zeeland city	82	45 Bucyrus city	18
154 Harwood city	794	109 Flasher city	217	191 Lehr city	81	356 York city	17
160 Hebron city	794	319 Tappen city	217	91 Dwight city	80	294 Sarles city	16
329 Underwood city	784	269 Plaza city	211	233 Mountain city	80	51 Calvin city	15
182 LaMoure city	764	112 Fordville city	207	78 Dazey city	78	70 Conway city	15
88 Drayton city	757	93 Edinburg city	199	85 Donnybrook city	75	152 Hansboro city	15
236 Napoleon city	749	225 Minnewaukan city	199	260 Pekin city	75	157 Haynes city	15
274 Ray city	740	46 Buffalo city	195	77 Dawson city	74	188 Lawton city	15
129 Glen Ullin city	732	119 Frontier city	195	66 Cogswell city	73	202 Ludden city	15
349 Wilton city	718	301 Sherwood city	194	48 Butte city	70	266 Pillsbury city	12
155 Hatton city	712	132 Golden Valley city	191	144 Hague city	70	20 Ayr city	11
278 Reile's Acres city	703	234 Munich city	190	304 Solen city	70	146 Hamberg city	11
228 Mohall city	694	256 Page city	190	28 Benedict city	68	29 Bergen city	10
281 Richardton city	692	138 Grandin city	186	156 Havana city	67	200 Loma city	10
181 Lakota city	683	302 Sheyenne city	186	207 Mantador city	67	254 Overly city	10
239 New England city	683	80 Des Lacs city	185	22 Balta city	66	338 Wales city	10
314 Steele city	665	350 Wimbledon city	178	172 Kathryn city	66	63 Churchs Ferry city	9
232 Mott city	653	231 Mooreton city	177	170 Jud city	65	139 Grano city	9
90 Dunseith city	632	116 Fort Yates city	176	167 Hurdsfield city	64	201 Loraine city	9
223 Milnor city	624	68 Colfax city	172	217 McHenry city	64	50 Calio city	8
227 Minto city	616	33 Binford city	170	212 Martin city	63	151 Hannah city	8
19 Ashley city	613	277 Regent city	170	120 Fullerton city	62	175 Kief city	8
194 Lidgerwood city	600	199 Litchville city	169	298 Sentinel Butte city	61	23 Bantry city	6
61 Center city	588	291 Rutland city	163	110 Flaxton city	60	262 Perth city	6
92 Edgeley city	585	263 Petersburg city	162	264 Pettibone city	60	290 Ruso city	1
271 Portland city	578	293 Sanborn city	161	328 Tuttle city	60		
96 Elgin city	543	280 Rhame city	158	67 Coleharbor city	59		
327 Turtle Lake city	542	62 Christine city	151	334 Verona city	59		

**Public School District Fall Enrollment 2022-23  
By School District**

CoDist	DistrictName	Total
08-001	Bismarck 1	13,632
09-006	West Fargo 6	12,491
09-001	Fargo 1	11,288
51-001	Minot 1	7,561
18-001	Grand Forks 1	7,440
53-007	Williston Basin 7	5,292
30-001	Mandan 1	4,277
45-001	Dickinson 1	3,875
47-001	Jamestown 1	2,145
27-001	McKenzie Co 1	2,003
36-001	Devils Lake 1	1,682
40-007	Belcourt 7	1,538
39-037	Wahpeton 37	1,186
02-002	Valley City 2	1,027
09-017	Central Cass 17	1,000
31-001	New Town 1	987
09-002	Kindred 2	883
50-018	Grafton 18	878
29-027	Beulah 27	753
31-002	Stanley 2	753
51-007	United 7	670
09-097	Northern Cass 97	659
05-001	Bottineau 1	654
18-061	Thompson 61	653
37-019	Lisbon 19	628
13-016	Killdeer 16	601
51-004	Nedrose 4	576
16-049	Carrington 49	571
35-005	Rugby 5	571
29-003	Hazen 3	560
40-001	Dunseith 1	527
53-015	Tioga 15	516
51-070	South Prairie 70	510
49-014	May-Port CG 14	504
49-009	Hillsboro 9	501
11-041	Oakes 41	478
06-001	Bowman Co 1	461
50-008	Park River Area 8	448
25-001	Velva 1	437
40-003	St John 3	430
53-002	Nesson 2	421
10-023	Langdon Area 23	408
51-041	Surrey 41	407
52-038	Harvey 38	394
34-006	Cavalier 6	391
45-009	South Heart 9	388
51-161	Lewis and Clark 161	384
12-001	Divide County 1	381
18-044	Larimore 44	368
28-051	Garrison 51	366
22-001	Kidder County 1	365
30-049	New Salem-Almont 49	363
11-040	Ellendale 40	335
25-060	TGU 60	335
18-129	Northwood 129	334
53-006	Eight Mile 6	325
28-004	Washburn 4	321

CoDist	DistrictName	Total
27-002	Alexander 2	306
14-002	New Rockford-Sheyenne 2	302
37-024	Enderlin Area 24	302
34-100	North Border 100	300
38-001	Mohall-Lansford-Sherwood 1	297
45-034	Richardton-Taylor 34	297
50-020	Minto 20	284
51-028	Kenmare 28	284
48-010	North Star 10	279
32-001	Dakota Prairie 1	278
03-005	Minnewaukan 5	276
01-013	Hettinger 13	275
39-044	Richland 44	273
30-039	Flasher 39	271
31-003	Parshall 3	269
39-042	Wyndmere 42	263
21-009	New England 9	262
28-001	Wilton 1	259
23-008	LaMoure 8	253
17-003	Beach 3	251
45-013	Belfield 13	251
20-018	Griggs County Central 18	249
23-003	Edgeley 3	244
40-004	Mt Pleasant 4	244
24-002	Napoleon 2	239
38-026	Glenburn 26	235
33-001	Center-Stanton 1	234
21-001	Mott-Regent 1	233
39-008	Hankinson 8	233
15-036	Linton 36	230
02-007	Barnes County North 7	229
07-027	Powers Lake 27	227
09-004	Maple Valley 4	227
26-019	Wishek 19	212
41-002	Milnor 2	207
43-003	Solen 3	207
03-029	Warwick 29	204
47-003	Medina 3	202
28-008	Underwood 8	201
49-003	Central Valley 3	200
09-007	Mapleton 7	195
28-085	White Shield 85	188
18-128	Midway 128	183
34-118	Valley-Edinburg 118	183
32-066	Lakota 66	182
39-028	Lidgerwood 28	182
03-030	Ft Totten 30	181
27-036	Mandaree 36	177
41-003	North Sargent 3	177
49-007	Hatton Eielson 7	177
18-125	Manvel 125	172
41-006	Sargent Central 6	172
20-007	Midkota 7	169
28-072	Turtle Lake-Mercer 72	169
34-019	Drayton 19	167
52-025	Fessenden-Bowdon 25	166
53-099	Grenora 99	160

CoDist	DistrictName	Total
47-010	Pingree-Buchanan 10	156
30-013	Hebron 13	154
09-085	Hope-Page 85	152
19-049	Elgin-New Leipzig 49	152
30-048	Glen Ullin 48	152
28-050	Max 50	148
05-017	Westhope 17	147
15-006	Hazelton-Moffit-Braddock 6	137
06-033	Scranton 33	136
40-029	Rolette 29	134
26-009	Ashley 9	129
02-046	Litchville-Marion 46	128
03-009	Maddock 9	122
03-006	Leeds 6	120
15-015	Strasburg 15	117
23-007	Kulm 7	113
42-019	McClusky 19	113
47-014	Montpelier 14	110
24-056	Gackle-Streeter 56	101
39-018	Fairmount 18	101
18-127	Emerado 127	96
04-001	Billings Co 1	95
27-014	Yellowstone 14	92
10-019	Munich 19	90
46-019	Finley-Sharon 19	90
07-014	Bowbells 14	87
07-036	Burke Central 36	80
05-054	Newburg-United 54	74
43-008	Selfridge 8	74
25-057	Drake 57	73
25-014	Anamoose 14	71
08-028	Wing 28	70
08-039	Apple Creek 39	68
51-016	Sawyer 16	64
08-033	Menoken 33	58
13-037	Twin Buttes 37	51
19-018	Roosevelt 18	49
36-044	Starkweather 44	48
50-005	Fordville-Lankin 5	46
03-016	Oberon 16	45
43-004	Ft Yates 4	44
08-025	Naughton 25	27
26-004	Zeeland 4	27
30-004	Little Heart 4	27
17-006	Lone Tree 6	26
47-019	Kensal 19	26
30-017	Sweet Briar 17	25
36-002	Edmore 2	25
37-006	Ft Ransom 6	22
08-045	Manning 45	21
44-012	Marmarth 12	21
08-035	Sterling 35	16
27-032	Horse Creek 32	12
15-010	Bakker 10	2
13-019	Halliday 19	
42-016	Goodrich 16	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>97,932</b>