

# Testimony in Opposition to HB 1273 - Relating to the prohibition of ranked-choice and approval voting in elections

Chairman Senator Roers, Vice Chairman Senator Barta and members of the Senate State and Local Government Committee.

My name is Connie Hoffman, citizen of North Dakota, and resident of Fargo, ND. I am submitting testimony in opposition to House Bill 1273 - Relating to the prohibition of ranked-choice and approval voting in elections.

In November 2018, Fargo citizens voted 64% to 36% to amend the city charter to implement approval voting. I support the right of Fargo citizens to continue to vote using the method they have deemed most fair, simple, and accurate under the Home Rule Charter.

Approval voting allows a voter to indicate a "yes" or "no" to each candidate so that the best candidate is elected with the most overall support of the citizens. I support local control, supporting the right of local communities to choose the voting method that best suits their needs.

I personally found approval voting to be a very positive experience, as did anyone who I asked for their opinion on the process of using approval voting. People shared they were glad they could vote for more than once candidate and felt more confident in the outcomes of the election. Clear information was provided to the public before the November 2022 election on the process of approval voting, resources were provided and various informational sessions were held. The ballot itself was clear to follow.

HB 1273 would prevent North Dakota citizens from implementing alternative voting methods of their choice and take away local control.

**I strongly urge the committee members to give HB 1273 a Do Not Pass recommendation.**

Testimony submitted by Connie Hoffman, Fargo, ND