

March 16, 2023

Senate State & Local Government Committee HB 1424
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CHAIRMAN ROERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

My name is Jack McDonald. I'm here on behalf of the North Dakota Newspaper and Broadcasters Associations. We support this bill and ask for your do pass recommendation.

It's our job to cover state and local elections, but with the growing number of candidates, particularly in local elections for school boards, park boards and city and county commissions, it is becoming increasingly harder to contact these candidates and provide our readers and listeners with the information they need to understand the issues.

This is especially true in smaller towns with weekly newspapers or small stations with limited staffing.

This bill provides more information about the candidates for the public and the media. That's not a bad combination.

We respectfully request your do pass on this bill. Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions.