

HB 1431

Good morning, madam chair and members of the committee. My name is Kathleen Tweeten, I live in District 8 of Burleigh County, and I oppose HB 1431. Full disclosure, I am the current president of the League of Women Voters of Bismarck Mandan, but I'm not here in that capacity. I am here representing myself as a poll worker. I commend you on your "do not pass" recommendation on SB 2157 and sincerely hope that you will do the same "do not pass" recommendation on HB 1431.

Being a poll worker is not an easy job. You are a volunteer with two hours of training and a 13-to-14-hour and maybe more day of intense responsibility. Plus, you must bring your own coffee and lunch, cannot leave the site and no real breaks. Everyone's dream job! Could be why it's difficult to find poll workers. This bill will make it harder.

Poll workers want this to be a good experience. You can see the excitement and pride but also the nervousness of voters, especially of those who are voting for the first time. It can be confusing, and I believe this bill would just add another layer to the confusion. The confusion will be on both sides, the poll worker may not understand the law and the voter may not understand the new requirements. So together it's not just a mess, but possibly a contentious one. Nobody wants that!

I feel this bill is totally unnecessary and redundant. If there is any question as to the eligibility of a voter, their ballot is set aside after voting, and they have until the canvassing board meets to straighten out any concerns. Personally, I do not and suspect that most poll workers do not want to question the eligibility of the voter. Every elector is asked if they are a US Citizen and when they say yes, who am I to question that!

I would be happy to try to answer any questions that you may have.

Thank you for your respectful attention.