

01/26/2013

Madam chair and committee members .

For the record I am Senator Jeff Magrum representing District 8 .

SB2308 is a bill to eliminate mail in ballots. Mail in balloting has created an election period instead of an Election Day.

Mail in balloting has created a hardship for the candidates. The mail ballots can be sent out 50 days before the election so campaigning has to start four months before Election Day adding to the cost of campaigns.

Mail in ballots have not increased voter participation as was intended.

When a mistake is made on a mail in ballot the voter doesn't have the ability to revote unless they catch it before its mailed then they can get a new ballot, otherwise they wouldn't even know that they made a mistake.

Mail in balloting increases the costs to the counties for elections. A mail in ballot passes through many hands before it is actually counted.

Mail in ballots do not need an Identification to prove who is voting, in fact one individual could possibly be voting for the entire household. The opportunity for mischief is increased.

This bill does not affect absentee voting or early voting at the poles.

I humbly ask for a do pass on SB2308 and I will stand for questions

History of Early Vote Statistics

October 6, 2022

November 2022:

June 2022:

51,032 early vote centers + 33,986 vote by mail + 15,090 absentee = 49,076: 46% of 106,168 votes cast

November 2020:

87,882 early vote centers + 94,465 vote by mail + 90,756 absentee = 273,103: 75% of 364,251 votes cast

June 2020:

160,114 absentees: 100% of 160,114 votes cast (due to Covid all ballots were absentee this election)

November 2018:

60,445 early vote centers + 53,129 vote by mail + 43,657 absentee = 157,231: 48% of 330,598 votes cast

June 2018:

10,295 early vote centers + 29,590 vote by mail + 5,876 absentee = 45,761: 40% of 115,226 votes cast

November 2016:

51,160 early vote centers + 42,753 vote by mail + 40,890 absentee = 134,803: 38% of 349,945 votes cast

June 2016:

12,248 early vote centers + 28,129 vote by mail + 9,452 absentee = 49,829: 36% of 139,957 votes cast

November 2014:

29,643 early vote centers + 31,040 vote by mail + 34,138 absentee = 94,821: 37% of 255,128 votes cast

June 2014:

20,282 early vote centers + 16,188 vote by mail + 3,262 absentee = 39,732: 42% of 93,624 votes cast

November 2012:

42,914 early vote centers + 39,772 vote by mail + 55,800 absentee = 138,486: 42% of 325,861 votes cast

June 2012:

12,492 early vote centers + 27,983 vote by mail + 12,990 absentee = 53,465: 30% of 175,303 votes cast

November 2010:

23,148 early vote centers + 32,812 vote by mail + 32,603 absentee = 88,563: 38% of 240,876 votes cast

June 2010:

4,453 early vote centers + 20,831 vote by mail + 4,910 absentee = 30,194: 29% of 102,066 votes cast

November 2008:

50,359 early vote centers + 30,690 vote by mail + 46,534 absentee = 127,583: 38% of 321,133 votes cast

June 2008:

7,888 early vote centers + 14,846 vote by mail + 5,966 absentee = 28,700: 28% of 102,886 votes cast

Summary of North Dakota Election Statistics 1980-Present

Statistics & Turnout

G = General Election..... P = Primary Election..... PP = Presidential Primary Election.....S = Special Election

Year	Type	Precincts	Votes Cast	* Population	Eligible Voters	Absentee Voters	Counties Going Vote By Mail	Percent Turnout	Election Expense	Cost Per Vote
1980	P	1,239	139,594	652,717	462,760	No Stats	NA	30	596,547	4.27
1980	G	1,235	314,525	652,717	462,760	No Stats	NA	68	752,387	2.39
1982	P	1,229	103,875	670,000	461,700	No Stats	NA	22	612,419	5.90
1982	G	1,232	272,876	675,000	461,700	No Stats	NA	64	598,335	2.19
1984	P	1,191	99,230	675,000	470,500	2,684	NA	21	612,329	6.17
1984	G	1,193	324,179	675,000	470,500	19,840	NA	69	667,936	2.06
1986	P	1,166	133,465	684,900	464,100	3,353	NA	29	642,904	4.82
1986	G	1,158	295,277	684,900	464,100	6,371	NA	64	631,640	2.14
1987	S	1,121	123,539	684,900	484,100	1,440	NA	26	359,159	2.91
1988	P	1,096	111,263	667,093	483,000	2,934	NA	23	645,948	5.81
1988	G	1,090	309,100	667,093	483,000	23,508	NA	64	676,336	2.19
1989	S	1,034	257,171	667,093	483,000	10,975	NA	53	517,696	2.01
1990	P	975	133,911	638,800	463,415	No Stats	NA	29	640,128	4.78
1990	G	991	240,301	638,800	463,415	No Stats	NA	52	678,340	2.82
1992	P	804	146,867	636,800	463,415	6,810	NA	32	717,090	4.88
1992	G	782	315,199	636,800	463,415	24,369	NA	68	752,128	2.39
1992	S	782	164,165	636,800	461,500	12,986	NA	35	393,988	2.40
1994	P	740	139,961	635,000	463,000	6,771	NA	30	675,862	4.83
1994	G	739	241,255	635,000	463,000	14,857	NA	52	633,877	2.63
1996	PP	53	72,530	641,000	473,000	No Stats	NA	15	202,716	2.79
1996	P	705	123,131	641,000	473,000	5,926	NA	26	951,580	7.73
1996	G	717	271,861	641,000	473,000	17,970	NA	57	685,452	2.52

Year	Type	Precincts	Votes Cast	* Population	Eligible Voters	Absentee Voters	Counties Going Vote By Mail	Percent Turnout	Election Expense	Cost Per Vote
1998	P	700	99,157	641,000	474,896	4,315	NA	21	696,188	7.02
1998	G	702	217,584	640,883	475,860	18,263	NA	46	658,785	3.03
2000	P	693	94,306	633,666	473,574	5,102	NA	20	851,473	9.02
2000	G	696	292,249	633,666	473,574	37,632	NA	62	731,220	2.50
2002	P	663	128,519	642,200	481,351	8,194	NA	27	774,285	8.87
2002	G	666	237,224	642,200	481,351	34,816	NA	49	714,212	5.06
2004	P	604	92,209	633,837	487,010	6,019	NA	19	786,146	8.53
2004	G	607	316,049	633,837	487,010	51,116	NA	65	751,160	2.38
2006	P	565	111,325	634,366	495,411	8,702	NA	22	826,998	11.55
2006	G	567	220,479	634,366	495,411	34,073	NA	45	876,318	6.31
2008	P	528	102,886	639,715	496,906	14,846 ¹ 5,966 ²	22	20	1,036,309	17.92
2008	G	528	321,133	639,715	496,906	30,690 ¹ 46,534 ²	21	64	1,024,420	5.55
2010	P	505	102,066	646,844	502,873	20,831 ¹ 4,910 ²	25	20 ¹	1,018,814	9.98
2010	G	505	240,876	646,844	502,873	32,812 ¹ 32,603 ²	25	47	924,816	3.84
2012	P	426	175,303	672,591	532,776	27,983 ¹ 12,990 ²	26	33	1,352,114	7.71
2012	G	426	325,862	672,591	532,776	39,772 ¹ 55,800 ²	26	61	1,047,767	3.22
2014	P	427	93,624	723,393	545,020	16,188 ¹ 3,262 ²	26	17	1,174,500	12.59
2014	G	427	255,128	723,393	545,020	31,040 ¹ 34,138 ²	26	46	1,096,398	4.30

Year	Type	Precincts	Votes Cast	* Population	Eligible Voters	Absentee Voters	Counties Going Vote By Mail	Percent Turnout	Election Expense	Cost Per Vote
2016	P	432	139,957	723,393	570,955	28,129 ¹ 9,452 ²	31	24	1,219,104	8.71
2016	G	432	349,945	723,393	570,955	42,753 ¹ 40,890 ²	31	61	1,248,307	3.57
2018	P	424	115,226	755,393	581,641	29,600 ¹ 5,876 ²	35	19	1,138,801	9.88
2018	G	424	330,598	755,393	579,621	53,236 ¹ 43,661 ²	35	57	1,210,056	3.66
2020 ³	P	422	160,114	760,077	581,379	160,114	53	27	1,249,906	7.81
2020	G	422	364,251	760,077	581,379	94,465 ¹ 90,756 ²	42	62	2,091,311	5.74
2022	P	398	106,168	774,948	564,935	28,469 ¹ 12,923 ²	36	19	1,445,996	13.62
2022	G	398	242,526	774,948	564,935	39,134 ¹ 30,929 ²	37	43		

*Population estimates calculated by the North Dakota Census Data Center

¹Mail ballots cast in vote-by-mail counties

²Absentee ballots cast in non-vote-by-mail counties

³Due to Covid-19 Pandemic all ballots were cast by mail this election