

Sheridan County Auditor's Office

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Senate State & Local Government Committee

Prepared February 7, 2023

By: Shirley A. Murray, Sheridan County Auditor

RE: Opposition to Senate Bills 2308, 2316, & 2386

Chairperson Roers and committee members. I am Shirley A. Murray, Sheridan County Auditor. I am in opposition of SB Bills 2308, 2316, & 2386

For SB2308 doing away with mail ballots, Sheridan County opposes. Sheridan County is a small rural County in the center of the ND made up of around 834 active voters and has done the mail ballot process since 2012. It has been a great process for Sheridan County, we still have one open polling place in McClusky. The public likes the convenience of the mail ballot. We have around 70% of the public that uses the mail ballot process in Sheridan County every election year. It is also hard to find poll workers to hire so with one open polling place I can find at least 5-7 people to work.

For SB 2316 doing away with electronic scanners, Sheridan County opposes. The ES&S equipment is secure and tested prior to every election. The ballot scanner is not connected to the internet so no tampering can be done. If we did have equipment to scan the ballots most election board would be overnight counting. The election board already have a long 12-16 hr. the way it is and would make mistakes counting the ballots. I am so thankful that Erica Johnsrud, McKenzie County Auditor and Erika White, Burleigh County Election Manager did a equipment demo for you last week to see how the equipment works well. The key is to test everything prior to election day to have a smooth election.

For SB 2386 to go back to paper poll books, Sheridan County opposes. The poll pads and central voter count have been very useful in tracking if a voter were to vote twice. The poll pads do not count any votes, however; the poll pad count for the day plus mail ballots already registered need to come out with the same total of ballots that are ran through the ballot scanner. So it is all accountable.

Please give a DO NOT PASS recommendation on SB 2308, 2316 & 2386