

January 23, 2025

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

HOUSE BILL NO. 1165

Introduced by

Representatives Louser, Rohr, D. Ruby, Satrom, Schauer, Vetter, Lefor

Senators Boehm, Castaneda, Paulson, Roers, Hogue

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 4.1-20-16, subsection 1 of section 4.1-20-18,
2 sections 16.1-01-00.1 and 16.1-01-15.1, subsection 3 of section 16.1-05-01, section
3 16.1-06-02, subdivision g of subsection 1 of section 16.1-06-04, section 16.1-07-07,
4 subsection 4 of section 16.1-07-08, and subsection 3 of section 16.1-12-02.2 of the North
5 Dakota Century Code, relating to election practices and administration; and to repeal sections
6 16.1-07-30 and 40-21-10 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to election notices and
7 municipal voter registration.

8 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

9 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 4.1-20-16 of the North Dakota Century Code is
10 amended and reenacted as follows:

11 **4.1-20-16. Nominating petitions - Petitions required - Final filing date.**

12 1. Any individual running for the office of supervisor shall present to the county auditor of
13 the county in which the district lies a petition giving that individual's name and mailing
14 address and the title and term of the office, and containing the signatures of not less
15 than twenty-five nor more than three hundred qualified electors of the district. When a
16 district lies in more than one county, the petition must be filed with the county auditor
17 of the county where the candidate resides, and that county auditor shall certify to the
18 county auditors of the other counties in which the district lies the name and mailing
19 address of the candidate filing such petition. ~~At the same time, the county auditor, or~~
20 ~~auditors in the case of multicounty districts, also shall certify to the secretary of state~~

1 ~~the name and mailing address of each individual filing a nominating petition according~~
2 ~~to this section.~~

3 2. An individual may not participate directly or indirectly in the nomination for more than
4 one individual for each office to be filled. The final filing date for nominating petitions is
5 no later than four p.m. sixty-four days before the day of the election.

6 3. Upon receipt of the petition or the certification as provided in this section, the county
7 auditor shall place, without fee, the name of the candidate so nominated on the
8 no-party ballot at the ensuing general election.

9 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 1 of section 4.1-20-18 of the North Dakota Century
10 Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

11 1. At each general election, one district supervisor must be elected for a term of six
12 years, or until the successor is duly elected and qualified, to each expiring or vacant
13 term. The county auditor of the county or counties in which the district lies shall ~~return~~
14 ~~to the secretary of state before four p.m. on the tenth day following any general~~
15 ~~election a certified abstract of the votes cast in the county at the election for each~~
16 ~~candidate for district supervisor. The secretary of state shall canvass the returns and~~
17 ~~issue certificates of election under chapter 16.1-15~~canvass the returns and issue
18 certificates of election under chapter 16.1-15. When a district lies in more than one
19 county, the county auditor of the county in which the candidate resides shall issue the
20 certificate of election.

21 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 16.1-01-00.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is
22 amended and reenacted as follows:

23 **16.1-01-00.1. Definitions.**

24 ~~For purposes of~~As used in this title, unless the context otherwise requires, "~~candidate~~"
25 means:

- 26 1. "Candidate" means:
- 27 a. An individual holding public office;
- 28 2. b. An individual who publicly has declared that individual's candidacy for nomination
29 for election or election to public office or has filed or accepted a nomination for
30 public office;

- 1 3. c. An individual who has formed a campaign or other committee for that individual's
2 candidacy for public office;
- 3 4. d. An individual who has circulated a nominating petition to have that individual's
4 name placed on the ballot; and
- 5 5. e. An individual who, in any manner, has solicited or received a contribution for that
6 individual's candidacy for public office, whether before or after the election for
7 that office.

8 2. "Complete residential address" means the description of an individual's physical
9 residence, which includes a house or unit number, street, city, state, zip code, general
10 delivery, or rural route address.

11 **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Section 16.1-01-15.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is
12 amended and reenacted as follows:

13 **16.1-01-15.1. Use of nonpublic funds prohibited - Penalty.**

- 14 1. The state and political subdivisions may not solicit, accept, or use any grants or
15 donations from private persons for elections operations or administration except:
- 16 a. The use of privately owned facilities for polling places;
- 17 b. Food for poll workers; and
- 18 c. Other nonmonetary donations that are not used to prepare, process, mark,
19 collect, or tabulate ballots or votes.
- 20 2. The state or any political subdivision of this state may not use a private entity ~~for~~
21 ~~election operations or administration~~ to administer an election.
- 22 3. An individual who knowingly violates subsection 1 is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

23 **SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 3 of section 16.1-05-01 of the North Dakota
24 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 25 3. If at any time before or during an election, it appears to ~~an election inspector, by the~~
26 ~~affidavit of two or more qualified electors of the precinct, or precincts for a~~
27 ~~multiprecinct polling place,~~ a county auditor that any election judge is disqualified under
28 this chapter, the auditor shall order the election inspector ~~shall~~ to remove that judge at
29 once and ~~shall~~ fill the vacancy by appointing a qualified individual of the same political
30 party as that of the judge removed. If the disqualified judge had taken the oath of office

1 as prescribed in this chapter, the inspector shall place the oath or affidavit before the
2 state's attorney of the county.

3 **SECTION 6. AMENDMENT.** Section 16.1-06-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is
4 amended and reenacted as follows:

5 **16.1-06-02. Ballots prepared by county auditor or local official - Penalty.**

6 For a local election, the ballots must be printed and distributed under the direction of the
7 auditor or clerk of the local subdivision. For all other elections, the secretary of state shall
8 ~~prescribe a printer and ballots printing vendor.~~ Ballots must be printed and distributed under the
9 direction of the county auditor, subject to the supervision and approval of the secretary of state
10 as to the legal sufficiency of the form, style, wording, and contents of the ballots. If an auditor or
11 clerk of a local subdivision, a county auditor, or the secretary of state causes or approves the
12 printing of a ballot listing an individual as a candidate when the official knows or should know
13 the individual does not meet the qualifications, or has not satisfied the requirements to be a
14 candidate, the official is guilty of an infraction.

15 **SECTION 7. AMENDMENT.** Subdivision g of subsection 1 of section 16.1-06-04 of the
16 North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

17 g. Provide text boxes at the bottom of the first side of the ballot. The text box at the
18 bottom of the first column is to contain the words "Official Ballot, the name of the
19 county, the name or number of the precinct, and the date of the election". The
20 text box is to contain the words "All ballots, other than those used to vote
21 absentee, must first be initialed by appropriate election officials in order to be
22 counted". The text box at the bottom of the third column is to contain the word-
23 ~~"initials"~~ phrase "election official initials" preceded by a blank line where the judge
24 or inspector shall initial the ballot.

25 **SECTION 8. AMENDMENT.** Section 16.1-07-07 of the North Dakota Century Code is
26 amended and reenacted as follows:

27 **16.1-07-07. Delivering application form for ballot.**

28 The officers specified in section 16.1-07-05, upon request, shall provide an application form
29 for an absent voter's ballot to the voter or may deliver the application form to the voter upon a
30 personal application made at the officer's office. The officers ~~may~~ also may make available or
31 distribute the applications, prescribed by the secretary of state, to the public without any specific

1 request being made for the applications. For every primary, general, special statewide, district,
2 or county election, the county auditor shall mail the applications in an envelope prescribed by
3 the secretary of state.

4 **SECTION 9. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 4 of section 16.1-07-08 of the North Dakota
5 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

6 4. For every primary, general, special statewide, district, or county election, the county
7 auditor shall use the outgoing, return, and secrecy envelopes prescribed by the
8 secretary of state. If there is more than one ballot to be voted by an elector of the
9 precinct and the voting system will be unable to tabulate one or more of the ballots,
10 one of each kind must be included and a secrecy envelope and a return envelope
11 must be enclosed with the ballot or ballots. The front of the return envelope must bear
12 the official title and post-office address of the officer supplying the voter with the ballot
13 and upon the other side a printed voter's affidavit in substantially the following form:

14 Precinct _____

15 Name _____

16 Residential Address _____

17 City _____ ND Zip Code _____

18 Under penalty of possible criminal prosecution for making a false
19 statement, I swear that I reside at the residential address provided
20 above, that I have resided in my precinct for at least thirty days
21 next preceding the election, and this is the only ballot I will cast
22 in this election.

23 Applicant's Signature _____

24 Date _____

25 The signature on this affidavit will be compared to the signature on the
26 affidavit included in the application for the absentee ballot.

27 **SECTION 10. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 3 of section 16.1-12-02.2 of the North Dakota
28 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

29 3. An individual who intends to be a write-in candidate for any legislative district office
30 shall file a certificate of write-in candidacy with the secretary of state. The certificate

1 must contain the name, address, and signature of the candidate. Certificates must be
2 filed by four p.m. on the ~~fourth~~twenty-first day before the election.

3 **SECTION 11. REPEAL.** Sections 16.1-07-30 and 40-21-10 of the North Dakota Century
4 Code are repealed.