

Good morning, Chairman Headland and members of the House Finance and Taxation Committee.

My name is Scott Wagner, and I represent district 45 in our legislative assembly.

I'm also the prime sponsor of HB1482.

HB1482 seeks to amend and reenact current sections 21-03-04 and 21-03-07 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the requirements of a municipal bond election.

For the purposes of this chapter a "Municipality" is defined as a county, city, township, public school district, park district, recreational service district, or rural fire protection district empowered to borrow money and issue written obligations to repay the same out of public funds or revenues (21-03-01(3).

HB1482 seeks to make one specific change to this section. It seeks to change the timing of an election that requires a public vote for the issuance of bonds.

Currently, "Municipalities" have the option of conducting the required election under this section in either a special or general election. This proposed change in law would simply remove the special election option and replace it with a primary election option.

The goal of HB1482 is to require public votes to take place when the largest percentage of eligible voters show up at the polls. This change in state law seeks to get the greatest engagement of our citizens and taxpayers on public bonding projects that require a public vote.

I would urge this committee to give HB1482 a **do pass recommendation**.

Thank you, Chairman Headland and House Finance and Taxation members. I would be glad to answer any questions.

Respectfully,

Rep. Scott Wagner, District 45