

Dear Committee Members,

I'm asking you to **oppose HB 1297**. In 2018, Fargo voters exercised their rights and overwhelmingly approved approval voting for our local elections. Now, this bill doesn't just threaten to take that choice away—it would block every other city in North Dakota from ever making the same decision. *This isn't just about Fargo*. HB 1297 strips all communities of the ability to improve their *own* elections—it **usurps local control**. Legislators should protect their constituents' right to enact change, **not take it away**.

When this was on the ballot back in 2018, **the approval voting measure won each-and-every precinct in Fargo**—it didn't matter if the precinct was red, blue, yellow, or purple—**voters chose approval voting**. Voters wanted a system that ensures the most widely supported candidate wins. It's simple, fair, and eliminates vote-splitting. We've held three successful elections utilizing it, consistently electing leaders spanning different political perspectives while giving everyone a voice in the process.

Approval voting is working.

Elections should reflect the will of the people. Whether someone agrees with approval voting or not, overturning a voter-instigated-and-approved reform sets a dangerous precedent. Please respect the decision Fargo's voters made by issuing a **DO NOT PASS recommendation for HB 1297**.

Thank you for your time,

Jed Limke

Chair, Reform Fargo

★ Reform Fargo is a locally-formed-and-operated non-profit focused on streamlining and improving government that's run entirely by volunteers living in the great State of North Dakota. *We care because this is our home.*