

Testimony of Harry Roth  
Project Manager, Stop Ranked-Choice Voting Coalition

North Dakota House Bill 1297

Honorable Representatives,

Thank you for allowing me to submit my written testimony.

In 2023, North Dakota came close to passing a bill to ban ranked-choice voting statewide. As you probably recall, it passed by both chambers and made it to the governor's desk before being vetoed. The legislature even came close to overriding the governor's veto.

North Dakota now has a new governor and a new opportunity to ban ranked-choice voting. North Dakota is a state that takes election integrity seriously, and banning ranked-choice voting will go a long way in protecting North Dakotans. It also helps that eleven other states have banned the broken system.

In states where it's been implemented, such as Maine and Alaska, delays and voter confusion have become the standard. Alaska's repeal ballot measure came within 743 votes of succeeding, while Mainers have had to deal with weeks of delays and technological issues.

Voters haven't fared much better in the locales that have adopted RCV. Voters in Alameda County, CA, experienced a glitch that resulted in the wrong winner being announced, while 141,000 New York City residents were disenfranchised by ballot exhaustion.

Wherever ranked-choice voting is used, voters are left confused and disenfranchised. I hope you consider this when deciding on whether to pass House Bill 1297.

Thank you again for your time.