



1 HB 1482 Municipal Bond Election – Opposition

2 Chair Hetland and Members of the Committee,

3 I am here today to testify in opposition to HB 1482. While I understand the intent behind this
4 legislation, I have several concerns regarding its implications for school districts and local
5 governance.

6 One of the most significant issues with HB 1482 is the prolonged period between potential
7 election dates. Under the proposed changes, after the November 2024 election, there would not
8 be another opportunity for an election until June 2026. This 19-month gap is highly problematic
9 for school districts and other local entities that may need to seek voter approval for critical
10 initiatives. The inability to call an election for such an extended period could severely hinder the
11 ability of school districts to respond to urgent financial or operational needs, potentially
12 impacting the quality of education and essential services. Furthermore, this delay to critical
13 projects for over a year may result in increased costs, deferred infrastructure improvements, and
14 challenges in addressing emergent needs in communities.

15 Furthermore, the proposed requirement that bond elections that all political subs achieve a 60%
16 supermajority presents another hurdle. This higher threshold may prevent necessary projects
17 from moving forward, even when supported by a significant majority of voters. In contrast,
18 allowing a simple majority in primary and general elections would align with democratic
19 principles and ensure that critical projects can proceed with the community's support. A
20 practical compromise to consider would be allowing voter decisions to take place during primary
21 or general elections, with a simple majority rule of 50% +1 voter determining the outcome. This
22 approach balances fiscal responsibility with the flexibility necessary for local entities to address
23 time-sensitive issues.

24 I urge the committee to carefully consider the practical implications of HB 1482 and explore
25 potential amendments that would provide districts with the flexibility they need to meet the
26 demands of their constituents while maintaining voter oversight and fiscal responsibility.

27 Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions the committee
28 may have.