



North Dakota House of Representatives

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Chair Klemin, Vice Chair Karls, Vice Chair Vetter, and members of the Judiciary committee,

For the record, I am Representative Liz Conmy, from District 11 in Fargo.

I'm here to present House Bill 1099, which is a bill relating to the printing of presidential candidate names on the general election ballot.

Let me explain how this came up. In the past election, only the surnames of the presidential candidates were on the ballot: Oliver, Harris, and Trump. The first names were omitted, because currently, in section two of 16.1-06-07.1., the statute states that the surname of the presidential candidate must be placed in line with an oval. The Secretary of State followed what was written, and only the surnames were on the ballot. For every other office, both first and last names were included. Several election judges told me after the election that some voters were confused, because they were looking for the first names, particularly Kamala and Donald. When I spoke to Secretary of State Michael Howe, he stated that although we could probably add the full name, we should probably do it by changing the statute to specify simply, name, which could then include a candidates full name.

First and last names should be required on the ballot in order to avoid confusion. And, it is in the voter's best interest that the presidential candidates be represented by their full name on the ballot.

This would apply both to electronic and paper ballots.

This change is supported by the North Dakota Secretary of State's office and election judges around the state.

That concludes my remarks and I welcome any questions you may have.

Respectfully,
Rep. Liz Conmy