

**TESTIMONY OF
JUDGE TRENT N. BARKUS
BEFORE THE 68th
LEGISLATIVE SESSION
HOUSE JUDICIARY
COMMITTEE JANUARY 9, 2025
IN SUPPORT OF H.B. 1032**

Chairman Longmuir, members of the House Political Subdivisions Committee, my name is Trent Barkus, I'm the Municipal Judge in West Fargo, an alternate Judge in Fargo and a Board Member of the Municipal Judge's Association. I am here today to testify in support of House Bill 1032.

The 81 Municipal Courts in North Dakota play a vital role in our communities and legal system. This bill was a collaboration with the Supreme Court, League of Cities and the Municipal Judges. The bill allows not only cities flexibility with how they run the courts but also modernizes Chapter 40-18 with the first update since at least the 1990s.

I ask for your favorable support of the bill and am pleased to stand for any questions you may have. Thank you.