

Testimony in Support of Thoughtful Property Tax Reform

Honorable Members of the Senate Finance & Taxation Committee,

My name is Robin Nelson. I reside in District 41 and serve as the designated legislative spokesperson for the Fargo Board of Education.

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to provide property tax relief and reform this session. We recognize the complexity of these discussions and appreciate the thoughtful approach taken to balance tax relief with maintaining essential local services.

The **Fargo Board of Education respectfully submits the following recommendations** regarding [HB1176](#) - postponed, [HB1168](#) and [HB1575](#) to ensure a balanced approach to tax reform while preserving **local voter authority**:

1. **Tie Reform Components to a CPI Factor** – Property tax mechanisms should align with inflationary factors to ensure sustainability. This approach would allow schools and other local entities to maintain consistent service levels without eroding their financial capacity due to rising costs.
2. **Maintain Local Voter Control Over Excess Taxes** – We strongly support preserving **the current 10-year simple majority vote requirement** for excess mill levies. Additionally, we support the proposal to hold these elections during primary or general elections to maximize voter participation and engagement.

We appreciate your commitment to finding solutions that provide meaningful tax relief while ensuring school districts and local governments can continue to serve their communities effectively.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,
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