



# North Dakota Senate

STATE CAPITOL  
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## Senator Chuck Walen

District 4  
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## COMMITTEES:

Finance and Taxation  
State and Local Government

2/13/2025

Senate State & Local Government

## SB 2252

Chairman Roers and Committee members:

For the record my name is Chuck Walen, District 4 Senator and former NW Chairman, and former District 4 Chairman.

SB 2252 is to allow a political state party or district party to determine how their endorsed candidates will move forward to the Primary or the General election.

Between July and December of odd number year the whole state committee or whole district party committee will decide if the endorsed candidate will appear on the Primary or general election Ballot.

Between January and May in even numbered years, they will hold their caucus or convention for endorsement.

The Secretary of State will be notified on or before the deadline of how they decided and which ballot they will appear. If a party does not make a determination by the deadline, they will automatically be in the Primary.

Any candidate that did not win an endorsement would need to get signatures to be on the General ballot as an independent candidate.

The question to answer is are we a private organization or are we a public organization. If we are a private organization, why would we allow the general public decide who our candidate will be for the general election by a primary vote when we do not have State party registration. Our primaries are completely open to all legally allowed to vote citizens. They could be from any party and decide who would represent our party on a general election.

If we want more party involvement we need our district and state meeting and conventions to mean more than just a get together and a feel good meeting. We need debate and have more people involved. This will get more people involved at the local level and with term limits we need to be looking for qualified candidates to run for these positions.

Please vote to a Do pass on SB 2252

I stand for any questions

How this would work in practice:

1. Party committee of District A decides to bypass primary and have Endorsed Candidates appear on General election Ballot.
  - a. Notice given to Secretary of State by deadline
  - b. Advertise to public that endorsed candidates will appear on General election ballot and not the Primary Ballot
  - c. Hold endorsing Caucus or Convention per their bylaws between Jan and May encouraging all party members to attend and have robust debate to endorse Candidates who desire to run for an office.
  - d. Unsuccessful candidates would gather signatures to appear on general election ballots as independent candidates for Office.
2. District B committee decides to go primary ballot or does not decide by deadline
  - a. Notify Secretary of state before deadline or default to Primary if no determination was made before deadline
  - b. Advertise to public that candidates will go to primary
  - c. Hold caucus or convention to endorse or not endorse for Primary ballot
  - d. Unsuccessful candidates get required signatures for Primary ballot as a party member.
  - e. General public votes to select your candidate to appear on General election ballot.