



# North Dakota Senate

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## Senator Kristin Roers

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## COMMITTEES:

Human Services  
State and Local Government (Chair)  
Majority Caucus Leader

2/13/2025

Members of the Senate State & Local Government Committee:

As we headed into session this year, I was approached by some leaders from the City of Horace - asking if I would be willing to submit a bill on their behalf to define the requirements for recall petitions in cities.

The changes are as follows:

Requires there to be 15 sponsors on the petition to ensure broader support for the petition, rather than the 5 required today

Increases the required signatures on the recall petition from 25% to 35% of the number of voters in the previous election for the individual attempting to be recalled

- For example - even though this wouldn't apply to a legislative race - only a city - here is how the numbers would play out: in my 2022 Election, I received 3023 votes, so a petition to recall me would require 1058 signatures (which equates to about 6% of the 16,700 population of my district). 25% would have been 756 signatures, an increase of 302 signatures.
- To give an example of numbers for a City race with smaller turnout, the 2022 Primary Election for Horace City Council, the 2 winners received 294 & 295 votes each - 35% of that would be 103 signatures. Horace has a population well over 5000 today, so that would be around 2% of the total population. 25% would have been 74 signatures, an increase of 29 signatures.

In the process of drafting this bill, I learned about the scenario that was playing out in Dickinson, where a city official was attempting to be recalled, but only the recalled official filed to run for that election. The city is still required to hold the election, so I included a provision in the bill that would allow for the election to not have to be held - and the cost not having to be incurred - if there was only the one candidate.

After the bill was published, the Secretary of State's office recommended some edits and I will let them speak to what those changes are.