

2023 HOUSE POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS

HB 1424

2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Political Subdivisions Committee Room JW327B, State Capitol

HB 1424
1/27/2023

Relating to a candidate's contact information and the form of a nominating petition and a certificate of endorsement.

Chairman Longmuir opened the hearing on HB 1424 at 9:00 A.M. Members present: Vice Chairman Fegley, Rep. Hatlestad, Rep. Heilman, Rep. Holle, Rep. Jonas, Rep. Klemin, Rep. Motschenbacher, Rep. Ostlie, Rep. Rios, Rep. Toman, Rep. Warrey, Rep. Davis, Rep. Hager

Discussion Topics:

- Uniformity of information
- Non-governmental email.
- Political use of state property

Rep. Conmy: Introduced the bill. Testimony #17267

Jack McDonald, ND Newspapers Association: In support. No written testimony

Mike Gardner, League of Cities: Opposition: No written testimony

Rep. Klemin moved a Do Pass;

Seconded by Rep. Rios

Representatives	Vote
Representative Donald W. Longmuir	Y
Representative Clayton Fegley	N
Representative Jayme Davis	Y
Representative LaurieBeth Hager	Y
Representative Patrick Hatlestad	N
Representative Matt Heilman	N
Representative Dawson Holle	Y
Representative Jim Jonas	Y
Representative Lawrence R. Klemin	Y
Representative Mike Motschenbacher	N
Representative Mitch Ostlie	N
Representative Nico Rios	Y
Representative Nathan Toman	N
Representative Jonathan Warrey	Y

House Political Subdivisions Committee

HB 1424

January 27, 2023

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Roll Call Vote: 8 Yes 6 No 0 Absent Carrier: Rep. Rios

Additional written testimony:

Barbara Headrick, LWVND, Board President: Testimony #17334

Hearing closed at 9:25 AM.

Delores Shimek, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1424: Political Subdivisions Committee (Rep. Longmuir, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (8 YEAS, 6 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1424 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

2023 SENATE STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

HB 1424

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

State and Local Government Committee
Room JW216, State Capitol

HB 1424
3/16/2023

Relating to a candidate's contact information and the form of a nominating petition and a certification of endorsement.

10:04 AM Chair Roers opened the hearing. Present: Chair Roers, Vice Chair Barta, Sen Cleary, Sen Estenson, Sen J Lee, and Sen Braunberger.

Discussion Topics:

- Non-government emails
- Equal voter access

Rep Conmy, Dist 11, bill sponsor, testified in support #24960.

Jack McDonald, ND Newspaper/Broadcasters Assoc, testified in support #25489.

Lee Ann Oliver, Sec State Office answered question. No written testimony.

Bill Wocken, ND League of Cities, testified opposed #25562.

Additional written testimony:

Barbara Headrick, League of Women, Fargo, ND in support #24792.

10:25 AM Chair Roers closed the hearing.

Pam Dever, Committee Clerk

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

State and Local Government Committee
Room JW216, State Capitol

HB 1424
3/23/2023

Relating to a candidate's contact information and the form of a nominating petition and a certificate of endorsement.

4:35 PM Chair Roers opened committee work. Present: Chair Roers, Vice Chair Barta, Sen Cleary, Sen Estenson, Sen J Lee, and Sen Braunberger.

Discussion Topics:

- Bill review
- Government emails
- Committee action

Sen Braunberger moved a DO PASS.

Sen Barta seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Kristin Roers	Y
Senator Jeff Barta	Y
Senator Ryan Braunberger	Y
Senator Sean Cleary	AB
Senator Judy Estenson	N
Senator Judy Lee	AB

Vote was held open for Sen Lee and Sen Cleary. Sen Lee and Sen Cleary voted at 10:43 AM on March 24, 2023.

4:44 PM Chair Roers adjourned the meeting.

Pam Dever, Committee Clerk

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

State and Local Government Committee
Room JW216, State Capitol

HB 1424
3/24/2023

Relating to a candidate's contact information and the form of a nominating petition and a certificate of endorsement.

10:43 AM Chair Roers opened committee work. Present: Chair Roers, Vice Chair Barta, Sen Cleary, Sen Estenson, Sen J Lee, and Sen Braunberger.

Discussion Topics:

- Committee action

Chair Roers reopened the vote on HB 1424 from 4:35 PM on March 23, 2023 to have Sen Cleary and Sen Lee Vote.

Sen Cleary voted 'YES'.

Sen Lee voted 'YES'.

Final vote call.

Senators	Vote
Senator Kristin Roers	Y
Senator Jeff Barta	Y
Senator Ryan Braunberger	Y
Senator Sean Cleary	Y
Senator Judy Estenson	N
Senator Judy Lee	Y

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES – 5 NO – 1 Absent – 0 Motion PASSED

Sen Braunberger will carry the bill.

10:44 AM Chair Roers adjourned the meeting.

Pam Dever, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1424: State and Local Government Committee (Sen. K. Roers, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (5 YEAS, 1 NAY, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1424 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

TESTIMONY

HB 1424

House Bill 1424

Chairman Longmuir and committee members,
Happy to be back before your committee.

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

HB 1424 is a bill that aims to clarify and make consistent the information persons must file when seeking candidacy through the North Dakota Secretary of State's office. By making the required information uniform for all candidates, the information is then more accessible to members of the public.

Currently, candidates in North Dakota are NOT required to submit their email addresses when they file for candidacy. The form simply asks for contact information, with no definition of what that entails. Some give no email address, and some candidates submit their state-issued email addresses.

I asked the Secretary of State to clarify if government email addresses broke any campaign rules and they replied that they could not give a definitive answer, so maybe. Therefore, this bill asks for non-governmental email to be used, in order to be fair to all candidates.

By requiring all candidates to submit a non-government email address and consistent contact information, we accomplish a few things:

1. Voters will have equal access to all candidates.
2. Organizations that produce voter guides will have a consistent and less expensive way to reach candidates.
3. News organizations will have have equal access to candidates

To be specific, page 1, lines 8-11 and 9-14 define specifically what contact information is required: Mailing address, phone number, and nongovernmental email address.

On page 2, lines 8 and 11 specify that the email address NOT be a government email address.

Page 3, line 11, changes the candidates certificate of endorsement that must be filed to non-governmental email address, as do lines 24 and 25, and line 4 on page 4

That concludes my presentation and I welcome any questions.

Thank you.



House Bill 1424
House Political Subdivisions Committee
January 27, 2023

Chairman Longmuir and members of the House Political Subdivisions Committee. My name is Barbara Headrick, and I am submitting testimony on behalf of the League of Women Voters of North Dakota in support of HB 1424, which would require federal, statewide, and state legislative candidates to file with a nongovernment issued email address.

HB 1424 would increase election transparency, allowing voters to more easily contact their candidates, and it would make it easier for us to invite candidates to fill out our voter guide.

In 2022, our nonpartisan voter guide covered all of the candidates running for office in North Dakota - over 2,000 in the June Primary and over 700 in the November General. Thanks to our partnership with Forum Communications, **over 20,000 people in North Dakota used our candidate information in 2022**, and we expect to reach even more voters in 2024.

This is how we invite candidates to complete our voter guide:

1. After the candidate filing deadline, we download the secretary of state's candidate list.
2. From this list, we email candidates an invite to respond to our candidate questions. If a candidate does not have an email address listed, we mail out an invite, but we have found response rates to letter invites to be quite low.
3. Candidates submit their responses themselves, which are published in our voter guide on www.VOTE411.org.

For the 2022 November Election, upwards of a quarter of statewide and state legislative candidates did not file with an email address, and even fewer filed with an email address for the 2022 June Primary.

When we tell people that federal, statewide, and state legislative candidates are not required to submit email addresses, they are surprised. Email addresses are ubiquitous now, and requiring candidate email addresses would make it easier for voters to contact their candidates.

HB 1424 would make our elections more transparent and help us provide nonpartisan candidate information to voters in 2024 and beyond. We urge you to give this bill a Do Pass recommendation. Thank you for the opportunity to share our testimony.

Barbara Headrick, LWVND Board President, nodaklwv@gmail.com.



House Bill 1424
Senate State and Local Government
March 16th, 2023

Chair Roers and members of the Senate State and Local Government Committee, my name is Barbara Headrick, and I am submitting testimony on behalf of the League of Women Voters of North Dakota in support of HB 1424, which would require federal, statewide, and state legislative candidates to file with a nongovernment-issued email address.

HB 1424 would increase election transparency, allowing voters to more easily contact their candidates, and it would make it easier for us to invite candidates to fill out our voter guide.

In 2022, our nonpartisan voter guide covered all of the candidates running for office in North Dakota - over 2,000 in the June Primary and over 700 in the November General. Thanks to our partnership with Forum Communications, **over 20,000 people in North Dakota used our candidate information in 2022**, and we expect to reach even more voters in 2024.

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3. Candidates submit their responses themselves, which are published in our voter guide on www.VOTE411.org.

For the 2022 November Election, more than a quarter of statewide and state legislative candidates did not file with an email address, and many fewer filed with an email address for the 2022 June Primary.

When we tell people that federal, statewide, and state legislative candidates are not required to submit email addresses, they are surprised. Email addresses are ubiquitous, and requiring candidate email addresses would make it easier for voters to contact their candidates.

HB 1424 would make our elections more transparent and help us provide nonpartisan candidate information to voters in 2024 and beyond. We urge you to give this bill a Do Pass recommendation. Thank you for the opportunity to share our testimony.

Barbara Headrick, LWVND Board President, nodaklww@gmail.com.



North Dakota House of Representatives

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600 EAST BOULEVARD
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360



Representative Liz Conmy

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C: 701-793-6409
lconmy@ndlegis.gov

COMMITTEES:
Education
Energy and Natural Resources

March 14, 2023

Chair Roers, Vice Chair Barta, and committee members,

HB 1424 aims to clarify and make consistent the information persons must file when seeking candidacy through the North Dakota Secretary of State's office. By making the required information uniform for all candidates, the information is then more accessible to members of the public.

Currently, candidates in North Dakota are NOT required to submit their email addresses when they file for candidacy. The form simply asks for contact information, with no definition of what that entails. Some give no email address, and some candidates submit their state-issued email addresses.

I asked the Secretary of State to clarify if government email addresses broke any campaign rules and they replied that they could not give a definitive answer, so maybe. Therefore, this bill asks for non- governmental email to be used, in order to be fair to all candidates.

By requiring all candidates to submit a non-government email address and consistent contact information, we accomplish a few things:

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On page 2, lines 8 and 11 specify that the email address NOT be a government email address.

Page 3, line 11, changes the candidates certificate of endorsement that must be filed to non- governmental email address, as do lines 24 and 25, and line 4 on page 4.

I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have.
Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,
Rep. Liz Conmy

March 16, 2023

Senate State & Local Government Committee HB 1424
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CHAIRMAN ROERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

My name is Jack McDonald. I'm here on behalf of the North Dakota Newspaper and Broadcasters Associations. We support this bill and ask for your do pass recommendation.

It's our job to cover state and local elections, but with the growing number of candidates, particularly in local elections for school boards, park boards and city and county commissions, it is becoming increasingly harder to contact these candidates and provide our readers and listeners with the information they need to understand the issues.

This is especially true in smaller towns with weekly newspapers or small stations with limited staffing.

This bill provides more information about the candidates for the public and the media. That's not a bad combination.

We respectfully request your do pass on this bill. Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions.

Testimony in Opposition to House Bill 1424
March 16, 2023
Senate State and Local Government Committee
Bill Wocken on behalf of the North Dakota League of Cities

Good morning, Chair Roers and members of the Senate State and Local Government Committee. For the record, my name is Bill Wocken, appearing on behalf of the North Dakota League of Cities in opposition to House Bill 1424.

This bill proposes requiring all candidates and their political committees to file their contact information with the Secretary of State, to include a nongovernment issued electronic mail address. Registration with the Secretary of State does not concern us, but the need to provide a nongovernment issued electronic mail address does cause concern when it is applied to candidates for local governing body seats in small cities.

It should come as no surprise to anyone, that finding candidates to run for local office is becoming more difficult. Some of our smaller cities report feeling fortunate when someone indicates an interest in local elected office, sometimes after considerable urging by constituents. Having to procure and provide an email address to the Secretary of State will keep some potential candidates from applying.

This bill seems to concentrate on district or state-wide candidates. If that were its' sole focus and candidates for local office in cities of less than 5,000 residents could be excluded, we would be able to live with this bill. In this case, one size does not fit all. If excluding local governing body candidates in cities of under 5,000 from this bill is not possible, the North Dakota League of Cities respectfully requests a Do Not Pass recommendation on this bill. I would be happy to try to answer any questions you might have for us.