

Hi. My name is Dustin Amundson and I live here in Bismarck. Thank you for your time and attention.

Our republic is a representative form of government that relies on fair elections. We the people need to have trust in this system in order for it to work properly. If our trust is lost we risk a complete breakdown of society. I mean....who wants to participate in a rigged system. I have listened to people in other states testify in front of their own legislature and claim that they had actually witnessed voter fraud. I have read articles from reliable, neutral sources that described how systems were cheated. In 2016 it was democrats who claimed the republicans rigged the election for Trump. In 2020, it was republicans claiming democrats rigged the elections for Biden.

I am not claiming that our elections were rigged, or that there is wide spread voter fraud in North Dakota, or any voter fraud for that matter. I really have no idea if our last election was rigged or if it was fair. This actually bothers me. It bothers me because there is no mechanism in place for me to be able to verify the integrity of our elections. After I feed my ballot into the machine I am completely blind to the rest of the process. We need checks and balances added to our system to maintain the integrity of our elections so that confidence in our system remains. HB 1360 aims to do just that. It aims to add checks and balances to the system.

I know there are at least 11 bills this session dealing with securing elections. I have not read them all, but I did read some of them. I think what makes 1360 stand apart is that it will give the people of North Dakota the ability to verify our votes ourselves. We can actually check our votes to ensure that they were processed correctly. Now...I like you guys and think you all have integrity, however, you guys are literally the product of our elections. I think it is bad policy to put the product of elections in charge of ensuring the elections are fair. If the goal is to ensure confidence, we the people must be empowered.

Now I want to discuss the intentions behind HB 1360. The spirit of HB 1360 can be found in sections 9, 10 and 11.

Summary below:

HB 1360 requires all ballots to be numbered consecutively.

It requires each ballot be scanned electronically.

It requires images of each scanned ballot be uploaded onto the Secretary of State website and be made searchable using the before mentioned required consecutive ballot numbers.

It requires the SOS website be equipped with image reading technology capable of vote-tallying.

It would require a process be created that allows for ballots that were cast by qualified electors and rejected for frivolous reasons to be counted.

Here is how the process would look. I would go into the polling station, prove my identity and receive my ballot. I would record my ballot number in a manner I choose and would fill in my ovals. I would then feed my ballot into the electronic vote counting machine. The electronic vote counting machine would do everything it normally does, as well as create an image of both sides of the ballot and send them to the SOS website where it would be inserted into a database that is searchable by ballot number. It would also be read by image reading software and added to an ongoing tally.

The following day I could go to the SOS website, type in my ballot number and view the image of my ballot to ensure that it made it to the SOS website correctly. If my ballot was rejected, instead of seeing my ballot I would see a message stating the ballot was rejected and directing me to contact the Secretary of State's office for more information. (If my ballot was rejected because I tried to cheat, I

doubt I would follow up with the SOS office). If my ballot was rejected by mistake, I could prove my identity to the SOS office and they could add my ballot to the website.

This bill does not attempt to change our existing system. It adds a few checks and balances to our existing system. The numbered ballots would prevent unauthorized people from printing unofficial ballots. Ballots would be numbered consecutively and there could only be one of each. The votes would be tallied twice, once by the electronic vote counting machines and once by the image reading software. The tallies should match or at least be within the margin of error. Most importantly, it allows the North Dakotan people to verify that their vote made it to the SOS website unmolested.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I ask that you give HB 1360 a Do Pass recommendation.