

March 16, 2021

Senate Political Subdivision Committee

HB 1165

Chairman Burckhard, Vice Chairman Anderson and members of the committee, for the record I am Diane Affeldt, city auditor for the City of Garrison and President of the North Dakota League of Cities. I am providing written testimony today to express strong opposition in HB 1165 relating to qualified electors in city elections.

Residents of the extraterritorial zoning area do not pay city taxes, city utilities or special assessments. Voting rights should be reserved for only the citizens within the boundaries of the City. To allow such voting would cause confusion especially when a city and county election are held at the same time and in most small ND communities at the same voting place.

Once you open this election eligibility, more situations could arise between a city and extraterritorial.

I ask that you follow the current NDCC 16.1-01-04 establishes the Qualifications for electors. Another NDCC that is not broke so why mess with it.

I do not think the State would allow someone who is not a resident the ability to vote in a North Dakota election. Keep voting rights reserved for citizens in the City, County and State in which they reside.

I would like to strongly urge the committee to defeat this bill in committee.

Thank you for all the important work you do for the citizens of this great state and opportunity to submit testimony on this matter.

Diane Affeldt