

Testimony prepared for:  
**Senate State and Local Government**  
Donnell Preskey, NDACo  
January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023



**Re: SB 2308 Eliminating Vote-by-Mail**

Chair Roers & Committee members, I'm Donnell Preskey with the North Dakota Association of Counties, in that role at NDACo, I serve as Executive Director for the ND County Auditors Association. The County Auditors are opposed to SB 2308 and urge a Do Not Pass recommendation.

This bill will dramatically impede voter's options in voting prior to election day. The Legislature has provided North Dakota eligible voters with secure options to vote prior to Election Day. Voters in our state have early voting options, they can vote absentee ballots and 37 counties offer vote by mail. Vote by mail counties send applications to every eligible voter in the county. It's important to note that vote by mail counties are still required by law to provide at least one voting location on Election Day.

In the 2022 General Election, 242,526 ballots were cast. 44% of the ballots were voted prior to Election Day. 70,000 voters cast their ballots by absentee and vote by mail, that's 29% of the total ballots. Refining this further, 39,134 or 16% of the total ballots were vote-by-mail ballots. If passed, this bill would eliminate the vote-by-mail option in North Dakota and therefore restrict voter's options.

This bill is unnecessary, please vote no on SB 2308.