

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the House Appropriations Committee.

My name is Austen Schauer, District 13, West Fargo.

**SB 2230** seeks to have the Secretary of State office create and distribute by mail voter information on ballot measures.

In the past, there have been many complaints from voters who find ballot language unclear and confusing.

**Voter guides** would be sent at least 45 days prior to the election (and prior to absentee ballots) to all **active voters**.

**Active voters** include those who have voted in a statewide election in the last four years.

The Voter Guides would include: (page 1 lines 16-20).

- **An objective summary of the measure.**
- **The anticipated fiscal impact of the measure.**
- **Whether the measure was approved by the legislative assembly or originated as an initiative or referred petition.**
- **An objective analysis of a vote in favor and a vote opposed.**

**SB 2230** has a **\$600k** appropriation. That includes:

Postage – **\$400k**. (Bulk rates range from .38 - .50 per piece).

Printing - **\$200k**. (envelopes/mailer).

This would cover two elections in a biennium.

This is a one-time appropriation. If this is something the legislature feels is worthwhile in the future, it could be added to the Secretary of State budget in 2027, or another one-time bill would need to be drafted.

The intent of **SB 2230** is to provide clear and concise ballot measure information to **active voters** as the decisions made by them **will have** and **have had** significant impact on State Government.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am open to questions and the Secretary of State is also here to address your questions.