



North Dakota Small Organized Schools

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Testimony in Opposition to ND HB 1482

Chairman Weber and Members of the Senate Finance and Taxation Committee,

I am here in opposition to HB 1482, which would eliminate special elections for bond issues and restrict them to primary or general elections. This change would create unnecessary delays—often 19 months or more—between the November general election and the next June primary. These delays would have serious consequences, including increased costs due to inflation and market changes, as well as setbacks to critical infrastructure and school construction projects that serve our communities.

Additionally, HB 1482 is inconsistent with the October 10 budget submission deadline for county auditors, further complicating financial planning for local governments and school districts. Special elections provide a necessary mechanism for addressing urgent community needs in a timely and efficient manner. Restricting this process would hinder our ability to respond to growth, safety concerns, and essential infrastructure improvements.

I respectfully ask the committee to reject HB 1482 to ensure local governments can continue to act responsibly and efficiently in serving the needs of North Dakota residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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The mission of NDSOS is to provide leadership for the small/rural schools in North Dakota and to support legislation favorable to their philosophy while opposing legislation that is harmful.