

House Bill 1297  
Senate State and Local Government Committee -- Sen. Kristin Roers, Chair  
March 27, 2025  
Testimony in Opposition to HB 1297

Chair Roers and members of the Committee, I am Vicki Voldal Rosenau, a lifelong resident of Valley City, ND. Thank you for this opportunity to respectfully offer my testimony in well-grounded opposition to House Bill 1297.

HB 1297 is an anti-representative, superfluous proposal that represents obvious overreaching by certain voices in state government. Apparently, this is yet-another attempt to curb cities' and counties' rightful control over local affairs. But HB 1297's blatant attack on local control is exceptionally harmful. More than six years ago, almost two-thirds of the voters in Fargo opted to implement approval voting. What possible justification could there be for the state to nullify the voices of those voters?

Moreover, this proposal is not "just" unneeded and anti-local-control; it is destructive in a much-broader way. At a time when rancorous divisiveness threatens the foundation (and survival!) of our democratic form of government, HB 1297 would disallow the very voting methods designed specifically to mitigate that divisiveness.

Both approval voting and ranked-choice voting accomplish a superior job of **electing winners who represent the preferences of the largest-possible number of voters.** Is that not the precise purpose of free elections? Truly, there is no excuse whatsoever for disallowing those voting methods.

I urge you to unanimously recommend "Do Not Pass" on HB 1297.

Thank you very much for your consideration,  
Vicki Voldal Rosenau  
Valley City, ND