

2025 HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HB 1424

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1424
2/6/2025

Relating to the issuance of a certificate of endorsement by a district party and relating to certificates of endorsement and the secretary of state's duty to place a candidate's name on a primary election ballot.
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11:17 a.m. Chairman Schauer opened the hearing.

Members present: Chairman Schauer, Vice Chairman Satrom, Representatives, Brown, Grindberg, Karls, McLeod, Rohr, Schneider, Steiner, VanWinkle, Vetter, Wolff

Members absent: Representatives Bahl, Christy

Discussion Topics:

- Accountability for state parties
- Introduction of state agencies into private organizations

11:17 a.m. Representative Koppelman, District 16, introduced the bill.

11:38 a.m. Andrew Borneman, North Dakota citizen, testified in favor and submitted testimony, #35659.

11:41 a.m. Micheal Howe, North Dakota Secretary of State, testified in opposition and submitted testimony, #35783.

Additional written testimony:

Lee Duckworth, private citizen, submitted testimony in favor, #34477.

Josey Milbrandt, private citizen, submitted testimony in favor, #34763.

Arthur Frazier, private citizen, submitted testimony in opposition, #35293.

Travis Zablotney, District 5 Republican Chairman, submitted testimony in favor, #35721.

Jerol Gohrick, District 2 Republican Chairman, submitted testimony in favor, #35722.

Doug Sharbono, private citizen, submitted testimony in favor, #35782.

11:49 a.m. Chairman Schauer closed the hearing.

Jackson Toman, Committee Clerk

DO PASS Testimony for HB 1424

February 4, 2025

From Everett Duckworth, citizen of West Fargo, ND

1536 8th ST E

Dear chairman and members of the house government and veterans affairs.

I believe this bill will make endorsements much better and provide a process for challenging a rogue endorsing convention.

Thanks for your consideration !

Dear Members of the House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee,

I am writing to express my support for House Bill No. 1424. This bill ensures that the endorsement process within district political organizations is conducted fairly and transparently. By requiring that endorsing caucuses follow internal rules and bylaws, the bill promotes integrity and accountability within political parties. It introduces a clear procedure for addressing complaints regarding the endorsement process. This mechanism allows individuals to file complaints if they believe the endorsing caucus was not conducted properly.

By establishing a formal process for endorsements and complaints, this bill enhances voter confidence in the electoral process. Voters can trust that candidates appearing on the primary election ballot have been endorsed through a legitimate and transparent process, free from irregularities or misconduct. It encourages greater participation and engagement within district political organizations.

In conclusion, House Bill No. 1424 represents a significant step towards enhancing the integrity, transparency, and accountability of the endorsement process within district political organizations. I urge a DO PASS this bill to help strengthen the democratic process in North Dakota.

Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,

Josey Milbradt

I support this bill because elections should be decided by a small group of party insiders, not by just anyone who walks in off the street and votes. Right now, any random person who gathers a few signatures can just *be* on the ballot - not fair. But with this bill, we can finally stop that nonsense and make sure only the *right* people get to run.

Party conventions are way better than primaries anyway. Instead of thousands of people voting, a couple dozen dedicated delegates—who are chosen in meetings that most people don't even know about—can make these decisions for the rest of us. That way, we don't have to worry about candidates trying to appeal to the *whole* public. They just have to win over the most *engaged* party members, which is obviously the best way to pick leaders.

Plus, this bill puts the Secretary of State in charge of making sure party rules are followed. Some people might say, "Hey, isn't that government overreach?" but actually, it makes perfect sense. Because if there's one thing political parties need, it's more government oversight of their private operations.

By passing HB 1424, we can finally make elections more simple: the party picks the candidates, and voters just accept it. No more annoying choices, no more messy primaries or voting—just good old-fashioned politics, done the way it *should* be, outside of the few of the voters.

Art Frazier

Patriot

District 33

HB 1424 Testimony in favor.

Mr. Chairman and members of the House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee.

My name is Andrew Bornemann, I am a lifetime resident of North Dakota, and I stand before you this morning to respectfully request a Do Pass recommendation from this committee on House Bill 1424.

This bill would significantly change the primary election process in our state, in a way that would protect the right of a political party to select its own candidate. Due to the unique nature of our state's lack of voter registration, our current election system has no safeguards against crossover voting, or "raiding", and thus no ability for a political party to have any meaningful control over the candidate bearing its name in the general election. The US Supreme Court has on multiple occasions held that a political party's right to select its own candidate is a fundamental right of a party, protected by the First Amendment. From *California Democratic Party v. Bill Jones, California Secretary of State*:

"The Court has recognized that the First Amendment protects "the freedom to join together in furtherance of common political beliefs," Tashjian, supra, at 214—215, which "necessarily presupposes the freedom to identify the people who constitute the association, and to limit the association to those people only," La Follette, 450 U.S., at 122. That is to say, a corollary of the right to associate is the right not to associate. "Freedom of association would prove an empty guarantee if associations could not limit control over their decisions to those who share the interests and persuasions that underlie the association's being." Id., at 122, n. 22 (quoting L. Tribe, American Constitutional Law 791 (1978)). See also Roberts v. United States Jaycees, 468 U.S. 609, 623 (1984).

In no area is the political association's right to exclude more important than in the process of selecting its nominee. That process often determines the party's positions on the most significant public policy issues of the day, and even when those positions are predetermined it is the nominee who becomes the party's ambassador to the general electorate in winning it over to the party's views.

Unsurprisingly, our cases vigorously affirm the special place the First Amendment reserves for, and the special protection it accords, the process by which a political party "select[s] a standard bearer who best represents the party's ideologies and preferences." Eu, supra, at 224 (internal quotation marks omitted). The moment of choosing the party's nominee, we have said, is "the crucial juncture at which the appeal to common principles may be translated into concerted action, and hence to political power in the community." Tashjian, 479 U.S., at 216; see also id., at 235—236 (Scalia, J., dissenting) ("The ability of the members of the Republican Party to select their own candidate ... unquestionably implicates an associational freedom"); Timmons, 520 U.S., at 359 ("[T]he New Party, and not someone else, has the right to select the New Party's standard bearer" (internal quotation marks omitted)); id., at 371 (Stevens, J., dissenting) ("The members of a recognized political party unquestionably have a constitutional right to select their nominees for public office")."

The fact that current state law allows any person to run as a candidate of any party, under their own choice and with no prior affiliation or approval from the party which they chose to represent, is I believe an infringement on a political party's right not to associate if they so chose. It is time to remedy this longstanding oversight, and return the power to choose their own candidates to the political parties of this state.

It is of note, if this bill passes, should a political party choose not to file a certificate of endorsement, the current primary process is completely unchanged. For a political party that prefers the primary to making an endorsement, they would still have the ability to make that choice.

For these reasons, I respectfully request a "Do Pass" recommendation on House Bill 1424, and I would stand for any questions from this committee.

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee**Testimony of Travis R Zablotney HB1424****February 5, 2025**

Chairman Schauer and members of the Government and Veterans Affairs Committee:

I ask you to recommend a do pass on HB1424. I am Travis Zablotney resident of Minot and Chairman of District 5 NDGOP.

Since my involvement in district party politics, I have noticed a reoccurring problem. Some district chairs and district executive committees do not always like to play by their own district bylaws or rules. This is sometimes a blatant violation and happens most often if their own power is being threatened. Other times it is because they have not read or do not understand the rules or bylaws they were elected to uphold. Grassroots members should be able to trust the district chairman and the executive district committee. However, mistakes happen or games do sometimes get played. This bill will bring accountability to district endorsement process and bring confidence to the grassroots members that an endorsement will be done per the district bylaws. If they believe the district endorsement rules or bylaws have not been followed, they would now have a way to see a correction in the error or willful the violation.

In addition, this bill fundamentally supports the primary reason a party exists. It exists because its members agree to a core group of values called its platform. It is the platform that becomes the brand and the brand is what people vote for as it most closely represents their own personal values. This brand becomes worthless and meaningless when just anyone can co-opt it in the primary election process. This bill would give the brand back to those that have earned it through the candidate endorsement process. This endorsement process is the important vetting of candidates for a brand and is expected to be done according to the values of the brand or the party being represented. This is imperative for the survival of any brand or party. To do otherwise and allow a candidate to solely choose their brand or party on their own most often is a misrepresentation to the public. In other words, without the language in this proposed bill a non-endorsed political party candidate is most always a fraud and is not brought by the will of its grassroots members.

I STRONGLY URGE A DO PASS ON HB1424

Respectfully,

Travis Zablotney

District 5 Chairman NDGOP

Minot, ND

Dear Committee:

I am Jerol Gohrick, District 2 Chair, I am writing in full support of HB1424, that would make elections so much simpler and more fair! When a District elects its Candidate, there should not be another choice to pick from for that party!! That is why we have the conventions!!

Thank you,

Yours Truly,

Jerol Gohrick

District 2

Chair

**Do Pass Testimony
of Doug Sharbono, citizen of North Dakota
on HB1424
in the Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota**

Dear Chairman Schauer and members of the House Government and Veteran Affairs Committee,

I am writing as a citizen and believe HB1424 is much needed legislation. This legislation returns the legislative candidacy on the ballot to the respective political parties and removes political party legislative candidacy by petition if the political district so chooses. This best keeps control of each political party to that respective party. There have been a number of occasions in the last decade where the opposing political parties have manipulated the candidacies and elections of one particular party. The crossover votes enabled by current primary election practices unfairly taint the process. HB1424 would end these manipulations and hand control of each political party back to those who best represent that respective party's ideals.

With HB1424, Republicans can be Republicans and Democrats can be Democrats. The beauty of HB1424 is that if a political district wants to continue with current practices of both party endorsement and petition to place a candidate's name on the ballot, they can still choose to do this.

Please give HB1424 a Do Pass Recommendation.

Thank you,

Doug Sharbono
1708 9th St S
Fargo, ND 58103

**HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
REPRESENTATIVE AUSTEN SCHAUER, CHAIR****TESTIMONY PRESENTED BY****MICHAEL HOWE, NORTH DAKOTA SECRETARY OF STATE**

Chairman Schauer and members of the committee, I'm Michael Howe, North Dakota Secretary of State.

Today, I'm providing testimony in opposition, specifically to Section 1 of HB1424. This section offers a new process under which the Secretary of State would receive, validate and investigate the process of endorsed candidates. A quick summary of the language proposed includes:

- The Secretary of State holding "endorsed" candidate paperwork filings for a seven (7) day waiting period for any complaints on endorsing caucus proceedings. Our office is not involved in any of these endorsing meeting activities as they are a function of the party and in no way overseen by this agency.
- Should a complaint come forward, the Secretary of State must determine the "merit" of the complaint – either by dismissing it, or by determining it is a violation of the "... district organization's internal rules, bylaw, or any provision of law ..." page 2, line 3. Our office is not involved in district party organization and has no interest as to what the political districts have in their bylaws and rules for endorsing candidates. Political party bylaws or any private organization's bylaws are not filed with the Secretary of State's office. Additionally, a review of the NDGOP website does not provide bylaws of any of the 47 district parties.
- Any "violations" of these bylaws and organizational rules, that reminder- we don't oversee, are then to be forwarded by our office to the Attorney General for his review within seven (7) days, so they can then direct our office on whether or not the certificate of endorsement received is valid or void.

All these items are supposed to happen after the candidate filing deadline of 64 days prior to the primary election, but the process outlined in Section 1 adds at the very least two (2) weeks to this process. Adding this process into the 64-day timeline is not feasible. Often political parties will hold their state conventions the weekend prior to the candidate filing deadline.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, this bill seeks to insert a state agency and the Office of the Secretary of State into the middle of party politics. The responsibilities laid out in Section 1 should be a function of

political party leadership, not multiple state government agencies. Why wouldn't state political parties post each individual district's bylaws on its website? Or better yet, why wouldn't all 47 districts have the same bylaws agreed upon by their respective state political parties? State political parties should not be looking to the government to rule their house. Putting the State of North Dakota in the middle of a private organization's enforcement of bylaws is not a good idea. I would urge a **DO NOT PASS** recommendation of Section 1 of this bill.

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1424
2/21/2025

Relating to certificates of endorsement and the secretary of state's duty to place a candidate's name on a primary election ballot.

9:29 a.m. Chairman Schauer opened the meeting.

Members present: Chairman Schauer, Vice Chairman Satrom, Representatives Bahl, Brown, Grindberg, Karls, McLeod, Rohr, Steiner, VanWinkle, Vetter, Wolff
Members absent: Representative Schneider

Discussion Topics:

- Committee action
- Proposed amendments relating to investigations

9:30 a.m. Representative Koppelman, District 16, introduced amendments LC#25.1144.01003, #45234.

9:43 a.m. Representative Rohr moved to adopt amendment LC#25.1144.01003.

9:44 a.m. Representative VanWinkle seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Austen Schauer	Y
Representative Bernie Satrom	Y
Representative Landon Bahl	Y
Representative Collette Brown	Y
Representative Karen Grindberg	Y
Representative Karen Karls	N
Representative Carrie McLeod	Y
Representative Karen Rohr	Y
Representative Mary Schneider	AB
Representative Vicky Steiner	Y
Representative Lori VanWinkle	Y
Representative Steve Vetter	Y
Representative Christina Wolff	Y

9:44 a.m. Motion passed 11-1-1.

9:44 a.m. Chairman Schauer closed the meeting.

Jackson Toman, Committee Clerk

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

HOUSE BILL NO. 1424

Introduced by

Representative Koppelman

2-21-25

JB 1066

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 16.1-03 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to the issuance of a certificate of endorsement by a district party; and to
3 amend and reenact sections 16.1-11-06 and 16.1-11-10 of the North Dakota Century Code,
4 relating to certificates of endorsement and the secretary of state's duty to place a candidate's
5 name on a primary election ballot.

6 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

7 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 16.1-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
8 and enacted as follows:

9 **District endorsements - Complaint and investigation procedure.**

- 10 1. Any political party of a district organization authorized to endorse a candidate under
11 section 16.1-03-21 may hold an endorsing caucus to place a candidate on the primary
12 election ballot. The district organization shall conduct the caucus according to its
13 internal rules and bylaws.
- 14 2. After completion of the endorsing caucus, the district chairman shall ~~issue~~sign a
15 certificate of endorsement ~~to the endorsed candidate, and the candidate shall file~~and
16 forward the certificate of endorsement ~~as provided under section 16.1-11-06~~to the
17 state committee of the party making the endorsement.
- 18 3. Upon receiving the certificate of endorsement, the ~~state party chairman~~may not sign
19 and forward the certificate of endorsement to the secretary of state ~~may not place the~~

- 1 ~~endorsed candidate~~for placement on the primary election ballot under section
2 16.1-11-10 for at least seven days following the receipt of the certificate.
- 3 4. Any individual claiming the endorsing caucus was not conducted in the manner
4 prescribed under subsection 1 may file a complaint with the ~~secretary of state~~
5 ~~within inquiry committee~~. The individual shall file the complaint within seven days of the
6 ~~issuance of the state committee receiving the~~ certificate of endorsement. Upon receipt
7 of a complaint, the ~~secretary of state~~~~inquiry committee~~ shall review the complaint. If
8 the ~~secretary of state~~~~inquiry committee~~ determines the complaint is without merit, the
9 ~~secretary of state~~~~inquiry committee~~ shall dismiss the complaint and the state party
10 chairman shall sign the certificate of endorsement. Upon signing the certificate of
11 endorsement, the state party chairman shall forward the certificate of endorsement to
12 the secretary of state to place the endorsed candidate's name ~~in~~on the primary
13 election ballot.
- 14 5. If the ~~secretary of state~~~~inquiry committee~~ reasonably believes the endorsing caucus
15 violated the applicable ~~district~~ organization's internal rules, bylaws, or any provision of
16 law, the ~~secretary of state~~~~inquiry committee~~ shall ~~forward the complaint to the attorney~~
17 ~~general to~~ investigate the complaint and notify the secretary of state of the
18 investigation. If the ~~secretary of state~~ ~~forwards~~~~inquiry committee~~ investigates the
19 complaint ~~to the attorney general~~, the secretary of state may not place the candidate's
20 name on the ballot until the investigation is complete. The ~~attorney general~~~~inquiry~~
21 ~~committee~~ shall complete the investigation within seven days of receiving a complaint
22 from the secretary of state.
- 23 5.6. Upon completing the investigation under subsection 45, the ~~attorney general~~~~inquiry~~
24 ~~committee~~ shall issue a written determination outlining the ~~attorney general's~~ findings
25 of the investigation. ~~If~~Following the investigation, if the ~~attorney general~~~~inquiry~~
26 ~~committee~~ determines the district organization complied with the internal rules, bylaws,
27 or applicable state law relating to the endorsing caucus, the ~~attorney general~~~~state~~
28 ~~party chairman~~ shall ~~notify~~sign the certificate of endorsement and forward the signed
29 certificate to the the secretary of state ~~that the certificate of endorsement is valid for~~
30 placement on the primary election ballot. If the ~~attorney general~~~~inquiry committee~~
31 determines the district organization failed to comply with the internal rules, bylaws, or

applicable state law relating to the endorsing caucus, the ~~attorney general~~ inquiry committee shall notify the district organization and the secretary of state the certificate of endorsement is void and the district organization shall hold the district caucus ~~must be held~~ at a later date.

7. If the subsequent caucus cannot be held before any applicable candidate filing deadlines, any candidate seeking placement on a primary election ballot may circulate a nominating petition as described under section 16.1-11-06. If a valid certificate of endorsement issued under this section is not filed with the secretary of state by four p.m. of the sixty-fourth day before any primary election, the certificate is void.

8. As used in this section, "inquiry committee" means the state committee of the party making an endorsement in a legislative race or a committee created under the state committee's bylaws to receive and investigate complaints filed under this section.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT. Section 16.1-11-06 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

16.1-11-06. State candidate's petition or political party certificate of endorsement required to get name on ballot - Contents - Filing.

1. Every candidate for United States senator, United States representative, a state office, including the office of state senator or state representative, and judges of the supreme and district courts shall present to the secretary of state, between the first date candidates may begin circulating nominating petitions according to this chapter and before four p.m. of the sixty-fourth day before any primary election, either:
 - a. The certificate of endorsement signed by the ~~state or district~~ appropriate chairman of any legally recognized political party containing the candidate's name, post-office address, nongovernment issued electronic mail address, and telephone number, the title of the office to which the candidate aspires, and the party which the candidate represents; or
 - b. ~~The~~ Subject to subsection 4, the nominating petition containing the following:
 - (1) The candidate's name, post-office address, nongovernment issued electronic mail address, and telephone number, and the title of the office to which the candidate aspires, the appropriate district judgeship number if

- 1 applicable, and whether the petition is intended for nomination for an
2 unexpired term of office if applicable.
- 3 (2) The name of the party the candidate represents if the petition is for an office
4 under party designation.
- 5 (3) The signatures and printed names of qualified electors, the number of which
6 must be determined as follows:
- 7 (a) If the office is under party designation, the signatures of three percent
8 of the total vote cast for the candidates of the party with which the
9 candidate affiliates for the same position at the last general election.
10 However, no more than three hundred signatures may be required.
- 11 (b) If there was no candidate of a party for a position at the preceding
12 general election, at least three hundred signatures.
- 13 (c) If the office is under the no-party designation, at least three hundred
14 signatures.
- 15 (d) If the office is a legislative office, the signatures of at least one percent
16 of the total resident population of the legislative district as determined
17 by the most recent federal decennial census.
- 18 (4) The mailing address and the date of signing for each signer.
- 19 2. If the petition or certificate of endorsement is for the office of governor and lieutenant
20 governor, the petition or certificate must contain the names and other information
21 required of candidates for both offices.
- 22 3. A petition or certificate of endorsement may be filed electronically, through the mail, or
23 by personal delivery. However, the petition or certificate must be complete and in the
24 possession of the secretary of state before four p.m. of the sixty-fourth day before the
25 primary election.
- 26 4. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if a political party issues certificates of
27 endorsement under this chapter, no other candidate seeking the same office may
28 appear on the primary election ballot as a representative of the same party issuing the
29 certificates of endorsement. If a candidate submits a nominating petition under a party
30 affiliation and that party has issued a certificate of endorsement for the same office the

1 _____; that I am a candidate for nomination to the office of _____
2 to be chosen at the primary election to be held on _____, _____, and I request
3 that my name be printed upon the primary election ballot as provided by law, as a
4 candidate of the _____ party for said office. I am requesting that my name be
5 listed on the ballot as I have identified my ballot name below. I understand that nicknames
6 are allowed as part of my ballot name, but titles and campaign slogans are not permissible.
7 I have reviewed the requirements to hold office and I certify that I am qualified to serve if
8 elected.

9 _____
10 Ballot name requested

11 _____
12 Candidate's signature

13 Subscribed and sworn to before me on _____, _____.

14 _____
15 Notary Public

16 NOTARY SEAL My Commission Expires _____

25.1144.01003
Title.02000

Adopted by the Government and
Veterans Affairs Committee
February 21, 2025

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

HOUSE BILL NO. 1424

Introduced by

Representative Koppelman

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 16.1-03 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to the issuance of a certificate of endorsement by a district party; and to
3 amend and reenact sections 16.1-11-06 and 16.1-11-10 of the North Dakota Century Code,
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5 name on a primary election ballot.

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8 and enacted as follows:

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- 10 1. Any political party of a district organization authorized to endorse a candidate under
11 section 16.1-03-21 may hold an endorsing caucus to place a candidate on the primary
12 election ballot. The district organization shall conduct the caucus according to its
13 internal rules and bylaws.
- 14 2. After completion of the endorsing caucus, the district chairman shall ~~issue~~sign a
15 certificate of endorsement to the endorsed candidate, and the candidate shall file and
16 forward the certificate of endorsement as provided under section 16.1-11-06 to the
17 state committee of the party making the endorsement.
- 18 3. Upon receiving the certificate of endorsement, the state party chairman may not sign
19 and forward the certificate of endorsement to the secretary of state may not place the

- 1 endorsed candidate for placement on the primary election ballot under section
- 2 16.1-11-10 for at least seven days following the receipt of the certificate.
- 3 4. Any individual claiming the endorsing caucus was not conducted in the manner
- 4 prescribed under subsection 1 may file a complaint with the secretary of state
- 5 within inquiry committee. The individual shall file the complaint within seven days of the
- 6 issuance of the state committee receiving the certificate of endorsement. Upon receipt
- 7 of a complaint, the secretary of state inquiry committee shall review the complaint. If
- 8 the secretary of state inquiry committee determines the complaint is without merit, the
- 9 secretary of state inquiry committee shall dismiss the complaint and the state party
- 10 chairman shall sign the certificate of endorsement. Upon signing the certificate of
- 11 endorsement, the state party chairman shall forward the certificate of endorsement to
- 12 the secretary of state to place the endorsed candidate's name ~~in~~ on the primary
- 13 election ballot.
- 14 5. If the secretary of state inquiry committee reasonably believes the endorsing caucus
- 15 violated the applicable ~~district~~ organization's internal rules, bylaws, or any provision of
- 16 law, the secretary of state inquiry committee shall ~~forward the complaint to the attorney~~
- 17 ~~general to investigate the complaint and notify the secretary of state of the~~
- 18 investigation. If the secretary of state forwards inquiry committee investigates the
- 19 complaint ~~to the attorney general~~, the secretary of state may not place the candidate's
- 20 name on the ballot until the investigation is complete. The attorney general inquiry
- 21 committee shall complete the investigation within seven days of receiving a complaint
- 22 from the secretary of state.
- 23 ~~5.6.~~ Upon completing the investigation under subsection ~~45~~, the attorney general inquiry
- 24 committee shall issue a written determination outlining the attorney general's findings
- 25 of the investigation. ~~If~~ Following the investigation, if the attorney general inquiry
- 26 committee determines the district organization complied with the internal rules, bylaws,
- 27 or applicable state law relating to the endorsing caucus, the attorney general state
- 28 party chairman shall ~~notify~~ sign the certificate of endorsement and forward the signed
- 29 certificate to the the secretary of state ~~that the certificate of endorsement is valid for~~
- 30 placement on the primary election ballot. If the attorney general inquiry committee
- 31 determines the district organization failed to comply with the internal rules, bylaws, or

applicable state law relating to the endorsing caucus, the ~~attorney general~~ inquiry
committee shall notify the district organization and the secretary of state the certificate
of endorsement is void and the district organization shall hold the district caucus ~~must~~
be held at a later date.

7. If the subsequent caucus cannot be held before any applicable candidate filing
deadlines, any candidate seeking placement on a primary election ballot may circulate
a nominating petition as described under section 16.1-11-06. If a valid certificate of
endorsement issued under this section is not filed with the secretary of state by four
p.m. of the sixty-fourth day before any primary election, the certificate is void.

8. As used in this section, "inquiry committee" means the state committee of the party
making an endorsement in a legislative race or a committee created under the state
committee's bylaws to receive and investigate complaints filed under this section.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT. Section 16.1-11-06 of the North Dakota Century Code is
amended and reenacted as follows:

16.1-11-06. State candidate's petition or political party certificate of endorsement
required to get name on ballot - Contents - Filing.

1. Every candidate for United States senator, United States representative, a state office,
including the office of state senator or state representative, and judges of the supreme
and district courts shall present to the secretary of state, between the first date
candidates may begin circulating nominating petitions according to this chapter and
before four p.m. of the sixty-fourth day before any primary election, either:
 - a. The certificate of endorsement signed by the ~~state or district~~ appropriate chairman
of any legally recognized political party containing the candidate's name,
post-office address, nongovernment issued electronic mail address, and
telephone number, the title of the office to which the candidate aspires, and the
party which the candidate represents; or
 - b. ~~The~~ Subject to subsection 4, the nominating petition containing the following:
 - (1) The candidate's name, post-office address, nongovernment issued
electronic mail address, and telephone number, and the title of the office to
which the candidate aspires, the appropriate district judgeship number if

- 1 applicable, and whether the petition is intended for nomination for an
2 unexpired term of office if applicable.
- 3 (2) The name of the party the candidate represents if the petition is for an office
4 under party designation.
- 5 (3) The signatures and printed names of qualified electors, the number of which
6 must be determined as follows:
- 7 (a) If the office is under party designation, the signatures of three percent
8 of the total vote cast for the candidates of the party with which the
9 candidate affiliates for the same position at the last general election.
10 However, no more than three hundred signatures may be required.
- 11 (b) If there was no candidate of a party for a position at the preceding
12 general election, at least three hundred signatures.
- 13 (c) If the office is under the no-party designation, at least three hundred
14 signatures.
- 15 (d) If the office is a legislative office, the signatures of at least one percent
16 of the total resident population of the legislative district as determined
17 by the most recent federal decennial census.
- 18 (4) The mailing address and the date of signing for each signer.
- 19 2. If the petition or certificate of endorsement is for the office of governor and lieutenant
20 governor, the petition or certificate must contain the names and other information
21 required of candidates for both offices.
- 22 3. A petition or certificate of endorsement may be filed electronically, through the mail, or
23 by personal delivery. However, the petition or certificate must be complete and in the
24 possession of the secretary of state before four p.m. of the sixty-fourth day before the
25 primary election.
- 26 4. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if a political party issues certificates of
27 endorsement under this chapter, no other candidate seeking the same office may
28 appear on the primary election ballot as a representative of the same party issuing the
29 certificates of endorsement. If a candidate submits a nominating petition under a party
30 affiliation and that party has issued a certificate of endorsement for the same office the

1 _____; that I am a candidate for nomination to the office of _____
2 to be chosen at the primary election to be held on _____, _____, and I request
3 that my name be printed upon the primary election ballot as provided by law, as a
4 candidate of the _____ party for said office. I am requesting that my name be
5 listed on the ballot as I have identified my ballot name below. I understand that nicknames
6 are allowed as part of my ballot name, but titles and campaign slogans are not permissible.
7 I have reviewed the requirements to hold office and I certify that I am qualified to serve if
8 elected.

9 _____
10 Ballot name requested

11 _____
12 Candidate's signature

13 Subscribed and sworn to before me on _____, _____.

14 _____
15 Notary Public

16 NOTARY SEAL My Commission Expires _____

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1424
2/21/2025

Relating to certificates of endorsement and the secretary of state's duty to place a candidate's name on a primary election ballot.

11:02 a.m. Chairman Schauer opened the meeting.

Members present: Chairman Schauer, Vice Chairman Satrom, Representatives Brown, Grindberg, Karls, McLeod, Rohr, Schneider, Steiner, VanWinkle, Vetter, Wolff
Members absent: Representative Bahl

Discussion Topics:

- Committee action

11:04 a.m. Representative Karls moved a Do Not Pass as amended 25.1144.01003.

11:04 a.m. Vice-Chairman Satrom seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Austen Schauer	Y
Representative Bernie Satrom	Y
Representative Landon Bahl	AB
Representative Collette Brown	Y
Representative Karen Grindberg	Y
Representative Karen Karls	Y
Representative Carrie McLeod	Y
Representative Karen Rohr	N
Representative Mary Schneider	Y
Representative Vicky Steiner	N
Representative Lori VanWinkle	N
Representative Steve Vetter	N
Representative Christina Wolff	N

11:07 a.m. Motion passed 7-5-1.

Representative Grindberg will carry the bill.

11:10 a.m. Chairman Schauer adjourned the meeting.

Jackson Toman, Committee Clerk

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
HB 1424**

Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Rep. Schauer, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS** ([25.1144.01003](#)) and when so amended, recommends **DO NOT PASS** (7 YEAS, 5 NAYS, 1 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). HB 1424 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.