

2025 SENATE STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

SB 2252

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

State and Local Government Committee
Room JW216, State Capitol

SB 2252
2/13/2025

Relating to a district endorsing caucus or convention; and to state party conventions and endorsing caucuses or conventions for primary and general elections.
--

9:34 a.m. Chair Roers called the hearing to order.

Members Present: Chairman Roers; Vice Chair Castaneda; Senators: Barta, Braunberger, Lee and Walen.

Discussion Topics:

- Citizen participation
- Endorsed candidates
- Open primary state
- Reorganization meeting

9:34 a.m. Senator Walen, District 4, introduced the bill and submitted testimony #37588.

9:47 a.m. Greg Demme, Republican District 3 Chair, testified in favor.

9:56 a.m. Jerol Gohrick, Republican District 2 Chair, testified in favor.

9:58 a.m. Travis Zabloutney, Republican District 5 Chair, testified in favor.

Additional written testimony:

John Fjeldahl, Chairman Ward County, submitted testimony in favor #37595.

Doug Pearson, citizen, submitted testimony in favor #37543.

10:06 a.m. Chair Roers closed the hearing.

Susan Helbling, Committee Clerk

Senate State and Local Government Committee

I am in strong support of SB2252, please vote yes on this bill.

Thank You Doug



North Dakota Senate

STATE CAPITOL
600 EAST BOULEVARD
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360



Senator Chuck Walen

District 4
422 Eagle Drive
New Town, ND 58763-4041
cwalen@ndlegis.gov

COMMITTEES:

Finance and Taxation
State and Local Government

2/13/2025

Senate State & Local Government

SB 2252

Chairman Roers and Committee members:

For the record my name is Chuck Walen, District 4 Senator and former NW Chairman, and former District 4 Chairman.

SB 2252 is to allow a political state party or district party to determine how their endorsed candidates will move forward to the Primary or the General election.

Between July and December of odd number year the whole state committee or whole district party committee will decide if the endorsed candidate will appear on the Primary or general election Ballot.

Between January and May in even numbered years, they will hold their caucus or convention for endorsement.

The Secretary of State will be notified on or before the deadline of how they decided and which ballot they will appear. If a party does not make a determination by the deadline, they will automatically be in the Primary.

Any candidate that did not win an endorsement would need to get signatures to be on the General ballot as an independent candidate.

The question to answer is are we a private organization or are we a public organization. If we are a private organization, why would we allow the general public decide who our candidate will be for the general election by a primary vote when we do not have State party registration. Our primaries are completely open to all legally allowed to vote citizens. They could be from any party and decide who would represent our party on a general election.

If we want more party involvement we need our district and state meeting and conventions to mean more than just a get together and a feel good meeting. We need debate and have more people involved. This will get more people involved at the local level and with term limits we need to be looking for qualified candidates to run for these positions.

Please vote to a Do pass on SB 2252

I stand for any questions

How this would work in practice:

1. Party committee of District A decides to bypass primary and have Endorsed Candidates appear on General election Ballot.
 - a. Notice given to Secretary of State by deadline
 - b. Advertise to public that endorsed candidates will appear on General election ballot and not the Primary Ballot
 - c. Hold endorsing Caucus or Convention per their bylaws between Jan and May encouraging all party members to attend and have robust debate to endorse Candidates who desire to run for an office.
 - d. Unsuccessful candidates would gather signatures to appear on general election ballots as independent candidates for Office.
2. District B committee decides to go primary ballot or does not decide by deadline
 - a. Notify Secretary of state before deadline or default to Primary if no determination was made before deadline
 - b. Advertise to public that candidates will go to primary
 - c. Hold caucus or convention to endorse or not endorse for Primary ballot
 - d. Unsuccessful candidates get required signatures for Primary ballot as a party member.
 - e. General public votes to select your candidate to appear on General election ballot.

Support SB 2252

Senate State and Local Government committee members:

Sen. Kristin Roers (Chair) kroers@ndlegis.gov

Sen. Jose Castaneda jcastaneda@ndlegis.gov

Sen. Jeff Barta jbarta@ndlegis.gov

Sen. Judy Lee jlee@ndlegis.gov

Sen. Chuck Walen cwalen@ndlegis.gov

Sen. Ryan Braunberger rbraunberger@ndlegis.gov

I am writing to you to ask for your support of SB 2252. I believe this bill should be passed to respect the choice made by local constituents who take time to seriously be involved in our endorsement and election process.

This legislation describes the process that should be followed as written by instructions for the caucus meetings and endorsing conventions.

Please support SB 2252.

Respectfully,

John Fjeldahl
301 254th ST SW
Berthold, N.Dak.
701 720 1634

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

State and Local Government Committee Room JW216, State Capitol

SB 2252
2/14/2025

Relating to a district endorsing caucus or convention; and to state party conventions and endorsing caucuses or conventions for primary and general elections.

Members Present: Chairman Roers; Vice Chair Castaneda; Senators: Barta, Braunberger, Lee and Walen.

8:36 a.m. Chair Roers called the hearing to order.

Discussion Topics:

- Party structure
- Expiration date
- Citizen involvement

8:36 a.m. Senator Walen related his finding on primaries in the state and country.

8:55 a.m. Senator Lee moved a Do Not Pass.

8:55 a.m. Senator Braunberger seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Kristin Roers	Y
Senator Jose L. Castaneda	Y
Senator Jeff Barta	Y
Senator Ryan Braunberger	Y
Senator Judy Lee	Y
Senator Chuck Walen	N

Motion Passed 5-1-0

Senator Lee will carry the bill.

8:56 a.m. Chair Roers closed the hearing.

Susan Helbling, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
SB 2252 ([25.0769.04000](#))

State and Local Government Committee (Sen. Roers, Chairman) recommends **DO NOT PASS** (5 YEAS, 1 NAY, 0 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). SB 2252 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.