

2013 HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HB 1400

2013 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee
Fort Union Room, State Capitol

HB 1400
February 1, 2013
JOB 18181

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Relating to early voting precincts.

Minutes:

1,2,3,4,5.

00:25

Chairman Jim Kasper opened the hearing on HB 1400.

00:38

Rep. Brenda Heller sponsored and and provided written testimony in support of HB 1400. - Attachment # 1.

Rep. Ben Koppelman asked of Heller as he understand the intent of this bill, it must authorized 7 days prior to election. And if that is the case then as you stated in your testimony the early voting periods range in length from four (4) to forty-five (45) days. The current law authorizes fifteen (15) days, how do we get to 4 days?

Rep. Heller answered that in her written testimony the "bullet" points are just statistic that she from other states. They are from what research she did. The early voting periods range in length from 4 - 45 days is just a statistic that is nationwide. And with respect to the second question it is her understanding that this bill would allow only seven (7) days prior to an election.

Rep. Steven Zaiser asked of Heller it was his understanding that adding the days previous to the election date brings out additional turnout. Would this reduce the turnout?

Rep. Heller whether it is a ballot issue or about a candidate we need the voters to be the most informed as much as possible. She also stated that either people will vote either absentee, go to the polls or vote by mail.

Rep. Gail Mooney is there a problem created along the line impetus down to seven days?

Rep. Heller answered to the best of her knowledge it is not a problem. The issue is to have the most informed voters.

Rep. Gail Mooney asked of Heller would not by giving fifteen (15) additional days allow the voters to be more informed?

Rep. Heller responded she didn't think so because people are so tired of all the Media hype and are tired of listening to it.

Rep. Gail Mooney asked of Heller was any time given to the county auditors/people who have early voting given?

Rep. Heller I did not contact county auditors

Rep. Marie Strinden asked of Heller by shortening work to a week (7 days) this will make it very difficult for her constituents to vote. She has had over 50 emails and conversations regarding this issue

Rep. Heller responded to Strinden what did they do before early voting?

Rep. Marie Strinden responded to Heller that they may not have voted before and voting is a very important right in the United States.

Chairman Jim Kasper Fargo, informed the committee that in Fargo we have two (2) polling locations, located off the county auditor's campus, they are at conference centers at couple of hotels in Fargo and there is a polling place in Casselton.

Rep. Heller responded that when this first went into law, the only place in Mercer County we could vote in was Stanton, now that we change law last session more polling places are available in the county.

Rep. Ben Koppelman spoke in favor of the bill.

Rep. Gail Mooney asked of Koppelman who would be benefitted by doing this for the person campaigning or the voters?

Rep. Ben Koppelman responded to Mooney this would benefit the voter to get the information they need.

Opposition

20:16

Al Jaeger, Secretary of State, spoke in opposition - Attachment # 2

I have out to the committee the entire section of the law that pertains to early voting. This law was established by this body in the 2003 session. He pointed out to the committee that

according to the law this is a county decision. Currently we have only seven (7) counties that have early voting.

Early voting is an absentee ballot. The seven days that are referred to in this bill are 7 **business** days. I would caution the committee on making the change. Based on my feedback that the public really likes it. During the last election 30% of the eligible voters voted early.

Rep. Vernon Laning asked of Jaeger whether or not the fifteen (15) days are business days or calendar days?

Jaeger responded that business days are calendar days.

Chairman Jim Kasper asked of Jaeger to bring to the committee what the election turnout has been since 2003

Jaeger responded that anyone can go to the ND.Gov/ Secretary of State website it is on there.

Chairman Jim Kasper asked of Jaeger what was his interpretation of - Attachment #2, paragraph 2 (a).

Jaeger responded that the law unless otherwise indicated refers to a business day as Monday thru Saturday, not on Sunday and holidays.

Jaeger stated that in the last election cycle we had the second highest turnout since 1980.

37:44

Kevin Glatt, Burleigh County Auditor\Treasurer, testified in opposition - Attachment #3.

51: 20

Michael Montplaisir, Cass County Auditor, testified in opposition - Attachment #4.

John Arnold, Association of Counties, testified in opposition

1:01:35

Al Jaeger, Secretary of State handed out to the committee the information that the Chairman Kasper requested - Attachment # 5.

1:02:25

Chairman Kasper closed the hearing on HB 1400.

2013 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Fort Union Room, State Capitol

HB 1400
February 14, 2013
18952

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature

Carmen Hart

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Relating to early voting precincts.

Minutes:

You may make reference to "attached testimony."

Chairman Jim Kasper opened the session on HB 1400. This bill changes the early voting requirement authorization from 15 days down to 7 days.

Rep. Ben Koppelman I was going to propose that we amend this bill to be eight days so that we don't restrict anybody who is currently using it. Cass County is currently doing eight calendar days. He made the motion.

Rep. Vicky Steiner seconded.

Rep. Vernon Laning I don't personally see the need of doing that. Auditor Glatt testified he would like to see it longer. His discussion on it centered on the fact that he still reduced absentee voting and all the paperwork that goes with it. He was in favor of keeping this intact because it did give the voters more time to come in and vote and avoid some of the other paperwork dealing with the others. The cities can adjust the time downward if they want to anyway.

Rep. Gary Paur I agree with Rep. Vernon Laning. I think I will follow Secretary Jaeger's suggestion to caution the committee to take any action.

Chairman Jim Kasper Did Secretary Jaeger have written testimony? I see he got up and spoke against it, but I don't see any written testimony in my file.

Rep. Gail Mooney I would agree with Rep. Paur and Laning. Currently our locals have the ability to bring it down appropriately to whatever they deem as being necessary.

Rep. Marie Strinden Grand Forks County does the full 14 days.

Rep. Ben Koppelman Here is why I agreed to the concept. Currently we have expanded the window of time through no reason, absentee ballots and early voting to where the election cycle is going to be forced to start in the summer. Traditionally, Labor Day or

somewhere in there has been kind of the beginning of the election cycle, and election cycle somewhat winds up the weekend before the election. If the election is in early November, that was typically about eight weeks of a campaign where a person gets to know who they are voting for and hopefully votes on the merits of what that person stands for. I refer to that as being an educated voter. In order to encourage educated voters, it is going to take a period of time before somebody votes to get your message out. If this is 14 days and we already know absentee ballots are 40 days prior, 40 days prior is basically the end of September. This would take us into mid October with the 14 days. If it is true that you need about the same times we traditionally used to get your message out, that puts you in the middle of August to make up for that.

Rep. Gail Mooney I agree with that being a bit of a stumbling block. We can't mandate for people to be educated at any point in time when they get to an election poll so it doesn't matter if they are voting on election day or 40 days in advance. I would always go with the assumption that I have faith in my voters that they will do their education before they get there.

Rep. Ben Koppelman For me it is a math game. He talked about the importance of actually meeting and shaking the hands of people when campaigning.

Rep. Gail Mooney We still have the same issues in rural. We are still faced with having to start our elections in August in order to be able to make sure that as much information is provided as humanly possible between the actual start point which is around the first of September all the way through until election day. What bothers me about this bill is that we still have a 40 day ahead time. Voters like the early voting time.

A roll call vote was taken to amend seven days to eight days and resulted in **DO PASS, 8-4, 2 ABSENT.**

Rep. Karen Rohr made a motion for a Do Pass as amended.

Rep. Ben Koppelman seconded.

A roll call vote was taken and resulted in **FAILED, 4-8, 2 ABSENT.**

Rep. Vernon Laning made a motion for a Do Not Pass as amended.

Rep. Steven Zaiser seconded.

A roll call vote was taken and resulted in **DO NOT PASS AS AMENDED, 8-4, 2 ABSENT.**
Rep. Bill Amerman is the carrier.

13.0371.01001
Title.02000

Adopted by the Government and Veterans
Affairs Committee

February 14, 2013

3/14/13
JONE

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1400

Page 1, line 6, replace "seven" with "eight"

Renumber accordingly

Date: 2-14-13
 Roll Call Vote #: i

**2013 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
 ROLL CALL VOTES
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1400**

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number 13.0371.01001

Action Taken: Do Pass Do Not Pass Amended Adopt Amendment
 Rerefer to Appropriations Reconsider

Motion Made By B. Koppelman Seconded By Steiner

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Jim Kasper	<u>x</u>		Rep. Bill Amerman	<u>x</u>	
Vice Chairman Randy Boehning			Rep. Gail Mooney		<u>x</u>
Rep. Jason Dockter	<u>x</u>		Rep. Marie Strinden		<u>x</u>
Rep. Karen Karls	<u>x</u>		Rep. Steven Zaiser	<u>x</u>	
Rep. Ben Koppelman	<u>x</u>				
Rep. Vernon Laning		<u>x</u>			
Rep. Scott Louser					
Rep. Gary Paur	<u>x</u>				
Rep. Karen Rohr	<u>x</u>				
Rep. Vicky Steiner		<u>x</u>			

*To change
to 8 from 7*

Total (Yes) 8 No 4

Absent 2

Floor Assignment _____

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

Amendment passes

Date: 2-14-13
 Roll Call Vote #: 2

**2013 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
 ROLL CALL VOTES
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1400**

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number 13.0371.01001

Action Taken: Do Pass Do Not Pass Amended Adopt Amendment
 Rerefer to Appropriations Reconsider

Motion Made By Rohr Seconded By Koppelman

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Jim Kasper	X		Rep. Bill Amerman		X
Vice Chairman Randy Boehning			Rep. Gail Mooney		X
Rep. Jason Dockter		X	Rep. Marie Strinden		X
Rep. Karen Karls	X		Rep. Steven Zaiser		X
Rep. Ben Koppelman	X				
Rep. Vernon Laning		X			
Rep. Scott Louser					
Rep. Gary Paur		X			
Rep. Karen Rohr	X				
Rep. Vicky Steiner		X			

motion fails

Total (Yes) 4 No 8

Absent 2

Floor Assignment B. Koppelman

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

Date: 2-14-13
 Roll Call Vote #: 3

**2013 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
 ROLL CALL VOTES
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1400**

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number 13.037+01001

Action Taken: Do Pass Do Not Pass Amended Adopt Amendment
 Rerefer to Appropriations Reconsider

Motion Made By Laning Seconded By Zaiser

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Jim Kasper		X	Rep. Bill Amerman	X	
Vice Chairman Randy Boehning			Rep. Gail Mooney	X	
Rep. Jason Dockter	X		Rep. Marie Strinden	X	
Rep. Karen Karls		X	Rep. Steven Zaiser	X	
Rep. Ben Koppelman		X			
Rep. Vernon Laning	X				
Rep. Scott Louser					
Rep. Gary Paur	X				
Rep. Karen Rohr		X			
Rep. Vicky Steiner	X				

Total (Yes) 8 No 4

Absent 2

Floor Assignment Amerman

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1400: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Rep. Kasper, Chairman)
recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends
DO NOT PASS (8 YEAS, 4 NAYS, 2 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1400 was
placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 6, replace "seven" with "eight"

Renumber accordingly

2013 TESTIMONY

HB 1400

HB 1400 - Relating to Early Voting Precincts

February 1, 2013

Good Morning Chairman Kasper and members of the Government and Veterans Affairs Committee.

Rep. Brenda Heller District 33

This bill relates to early voting and the time allocated to provide for it.

The only change this bill makes is changing the allowance of days from **fifteen to seven**.

The original intent of early voting was to ease congestion at the polling places on election day. Seven days prior to election is plenty of time to ease congestion at the polling places.

- North Dakota has "no excuse" absentee voting and this bill would not change absentee voting.
-
- Two-thirds of the states offer some sort of early voting. Early voting allows voters to visit an election official's office or, in some states, other satellite voting locations, and cast a vote in person without offering an excuse for why the voter is unable to vote on election day.
-
- Early voting periods range in length from four days to 45 days

Campaigns adjust to the early voting schedule.

Additional staff is needed to run these early voting polling sites.

This does nothing to change Absentee Voting if someone is going on vacation or will be out of town, they can still elect to use Absentee Voting.

Seven Days is a reasonable and advantageous adjustment to the Early Voting Schedule.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee I urge a Do Pass on HB 1400.

16.1-07-15. Early voting precinct - Election board appointment - Closing and canvassing.

1. For any primary, general, or special statewide, district, or county election, the board of county commissioners may, before the sixtieth day before the day of the election, create a special precinct, known as an early voting precinct, to facilitate the conduct of early voting in that county according to chapters 16.1-13 and 16.1-15. At the determination of the county auditor, more than one voting location may be utilized for the purposes of operating the early voting precinct. The election board of the early voting precinct must be known as the early voting precinct election board. The county auditor shall supply the board with all necessary election supplies as provided in chapter 16.1-06.
2. If the board of county commissioners establishes an early voting precinct according to this section, the following provisions apply:
 - a. Early voting must be authorized during the fifteen days immediately before the day of the election. The county auditor shall designate the business days and times during which the early voting election precinct will be open and publish notice of the early voting center locations, dates, and times in the official county newspaper once each week for three consecutive weeks immediately before the day of the election.
 - b. The county auditor shall appoint the early voting precinct election board for each voting location that consists of one independent representative to act as the inspector and an equal number of representatives from each political party represented on an election board in the county, as set out in section 16.1-05-01, to act as judges. Each official of the board shall take the oath required by section 16.1-05-02 and must be compensated as provided in section 16.1-05-05.
 - c. The county auditor, with the consent of the board of county commissioners, shall designate each early voting location in a public facility, accessible to the elderly and the physically disabled as provided in section 16.1-04-02. With respect to polling places at early voting precincts, "election day" as used in sections 16.1-10-03 and 16.1-10-06.2 includes any time an early voting precinct polling place is open.
 - d. At the close of each day of early voting, the inspector, along with a judge from each political party represented on the board, shall secure all election-related materials, including:
 - (1) The pollbooks and access to any electronically maintained pollbooks.
 - (2) The ballot boxes containing voted ballots.
 - (3) Any void, spoiled, and unvoted ballots.
 - e. Ballot boxes containing ballots cast at an early voting location may not be opened until the day of the election except as may be necessary to clear a ballot jam or to move voted ballots to a separate locked ballot box in order to make room for additional ballots.
 - f. Each early voting location may be closed, as provided in chapter 16.1-15, at the end of the last day designated for early voting in the county. Results from the early voting precinct may be counted, canvassed, or released under chapter 16.1-15 as soon as any precinct within the county, city, or legislative district closes its polls on the day of the election. The county auditor shall designate a location for the closing, counting, and canvassing process under chapter 16.1-15, which location must be open to any person for the purpose of observing.
 - g. The early voting precinct election board shall comply with the requirements of chapters 16.1-05, 16.1-13, and 16.1-15, as applicable.

TESTIMONY TO THE
HOUSE GOVERNMENT & VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Prepared by Kevin J. Glatt, Burleigh County Auditor/Treasurer

HOUSE BILL 1400

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I appear before you to express my **opposition to HB1400.**

I am opposed to shortening the time frame allowed for early voting. If anything the time frame should be increased to alleviate the expenses related to absent voting. **If HB1400 is passed more voters will request absentee ballots, greatly increasing election costs with no increase in voter participation.**

*The effect of the present absent voter system is placing an administrative and fiscal burden on counties. There is no easy way to handle absentee ballots. The political party mailings compound this burden by increasing the number of absentee ballot requests. From my visits with people returning absent voter ballots to my office, their **primary reason** for voting absentee is **convenience**, and if they had not received an absent voter application they would have voted on Election Day at their regular precinct. I personally received 7 applications for an absent voter ballot at my home (5 GOP and 2 DEMO).*

My office receives many, many incomplete applications which require follow up by a phone call or mail (all of which must be done on a very timely basis). My records show that the combined staff of the Burleigh County Auditor, Treasurer and Director of Tax Equalization basically shut down every day between October 15th thru November 6th from 7:00AM until 3:00PM to process applications for absentee ballots and get the ballots in the mail for delivery to the electors.

From my vantage point – as election administrator for Burleigh County – **the origin of all these issues goes back to the change in legislation allowing all electors to vote absentee without a reason.** Previous ABSENTEE BALLOT legislation has dramatically increased costs of elections and HAS NOT INCREASED VOTER PARTICIPATION. With this increase in cost, county auditors and the Sec of State have been trying to find ways to reduce the costs associated with absent voter ballots by reducing precincts and utilizing early vote and Election Day vote centers – all with NO CORRESPONDING INCREASE IN VOTER PARTICIPATION. What is on the ballot drives voter participation; not how convenient we make access to the ballot.

With the present situation several county auditors now prepare for three (3) types of elections:

- Regular Election Day precinct election (26,578 or ⁶¹15%)
- Absent Voter election (10,548 or 24%)
- Early Vote election (6,316 or 15%)

I must staff polling places and order enough ballots for all three (3) types of elections. I estimate this increases election costs in Burleigh County by at least 30%.

I have been an advocate of voter turnout during my entire tenure. I have opened my office on Saturdays to accommodate college students and those who work out of town. I have spent many hours at local high schools explaining voting procedures and encouraging and challenging young people to vote.

I understand the attempts to make voting more convenient as a means to increase participation – however, at what cost? We as citizens need be responsible. We need to realize how important our vote is. I agree that voting is a right and a privilege. Moreover, it is my DUTY and RESPONSIBILITY.

The record shows that the present absent voting system does not increase participation, only shifts voting methods from traditional precinct balloting to other methods and increases costs.

I would propose the following amendment to HB1400:

16.1-07-01. Absent voter – Who may vote.

Any qualified elector of this state who reasonably expects to be unable to go to the polling place on election day in the precinct where the individual maintains residence because of absence from the precinct; illness; disability; religious discipline; observance of a religious holiday; or service as an election judge in another precinct may vote an absent voter's ballot at any general, special, or primary state election, any county election, or any city or school district election.

In conclusion I am opposed to shortening the time frame allowed for early voting. If anything the time frame should be increased to alleviate the administrative and fiscal expenses related to absent voting.

Sincerely,

Kevin J. Glatt
Burleigh County Auditor/Treasurer

Election Info

- 6,316 early votes (15%)
- 10,548 absentee votes (24%)
- 26,578 Election Day precinct votes (61%)

Total Votes: 43,441 2010 (32,831) 2008 (42,222) 2006 (28,953)

36 Precincts \ 39 Ballot styles \ 27 Voting Locations
Poll hours 7AM – 7PM

Largest Election Day Precinct:

Horizon Middle School 1,880
Bismarck Civic Center 3,086
(5 precincts combined)

Smallest Election Day Precinct:

Sterling 171 votes
Wing 176 votes

Average vote cast per voting location: 904

Early Vote Precinct:

11/5/12 1,090 votes cast in 7 hours... (10am – 5pm)
11/3/12 (Saturday) 525 votes cast in 4 hours... (9am – 1pm)

Absentee:

11,478 sent out
96% have been returned.

Absentee Precinct – 14 electors worked 16.5 hours over 2 days to review signatures, open, and tabulate.

Election Worker Expense for Election Day:	\$43,330.95
Election Worker Expense for Absentee Precinct (2 days):	\$ 2,754.00
Election Worker Expense for Early Vote Precinct (11 days):	<u>\$ 6,029.00</u>
	\$52,113.95 (unaudited)

**Written Testimony To
THE HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Thursday, January 31, 2013
Michael Montplaisir, Cass County Auditor
Cass County Government**

REGARDING HOUSE BILL 1400

Chairman Kasper and committee members my name is Michael Montplaisir and I am the County Auditor in Cass County. I am here today to give you some of my thoughts concerning House Bill 1400.

House Bill 1400 changes the current period for early voting from fifteen days prior to the election to seven days prior to the election. Early voting is very popular in Cass County as evidenced by the over 18,000 people who cast ballots at our early voting precincts last fall. Reducing the time frame to seven days greatly impacts our ability to manage the early voting sites to meet the needs and desires of our voting public. We currently do not run fifteen days; this past year we opened eight days prior to the election. The number of days we are open, the hours we set, the number of sites we use, and the size of staff dedicated to early voting depends on the number of voters we expect and the available space. We have very few sites that have the building and parking space adequate to run early voting. These spaces are typically banquet facilities in larger motels, and we are competing for that space with other more lucrative opportunities available to the motel.

This proposed change in the law from fifteen days to seven days reduces the days for the early voting precincts to a practical limit of four days, Tuesday through Friday, and in some cases three days, Tuesday through Thursday. As mentioned, we compete with space in the motels and at times we are either limited in hours on Friday's or lose Friday altogether because that day is a prime time for other uses of facilities that are really the bread and butter of their operation, where they not only get the meeting rooms rented, they also get a lot of motel guest rooms rented.

This past year we were lucky and were able to have all three centers open on the Friday before the election, but in the past we have been preempted on the Friday before and will likely be again.

The current time line works – reducing the time line will be a disservice to the voting public.

I urge a do not pass on House Bill 1400.

Summary of North Dakota Election Statistics 1980-Present

Statistics & Turnout

G = General Election..... P = Primary Election..... PP = Presidential Primary Election..... S = Special Election

Year	Type	Precincts	Votes Cast	* Population	Eligible Voters	Absentee Voters	Counties Going Vote By Mail	Percent Turnout	Election Expense	Cost Per Vote
1980	P	1,239	139,594	652,717	462,760	No Stats	NA	30	596,547	4.27
1980	G	1,235	314,525	652,717	462,760	No Stats	NA	68	752,387	2.39
1982	P	1,229	103,875	670,000	461,700	No Stats	NA	22	612,419	5.90
1982	G	1,232	272,876	675,000	461,700	No Stats	NA	64	598,335	2.19
1984	P	1,191	99,230	675,000	470,500	2,684	NA	21	612,329	6.17
1984	G	1,193	324,179	675,000	470,500	19,840	NA	69	667,936	2.06
1986	P	1,166	133,465	684,900	464,100	3,353	NA	29	642,904	4.82
1986	G	1,158	295,277	684,900	464,100	6,371	NA	64	631,640	2.14
1987	S	1,121	123,539	684,900	484,100	1,440	NA	26	359,159	2.91
1988	P	1,096	111,263	667,093	483,000	2,934	NA	23	645,948	5.81
1988	G	1,090	309,100	667,093	483,000	23,508	NA	64	676,336	2.19
1989	S	1,034	257,171	667,093	483,000	10,975	NA	53	517,696	2.01
1990	P	975	133,911	638,800	463,415	No Stats	NA	29	640,128	4.78
1990	G	991	240,301	638,800	463,415	No Stats	NA	52	678,340	2.82
1992	P	804	146,867	636,800	463,415	6,810	NA	32	717,090	4.88
1992	G	782	315,199	636,800	463,415	24,369	NA	68	752,128	2.39
1992	S	782	164,165	636,800	461,500	12,986	NA	35	393,988	2.40
1994	P	740	139,961	635,000	463,000	6,771	NA	30	675,862	4.83
1994	G	739	241,255	635,000	463,000	14,857	NA	52	633,877	2.63
1996	PP	53	72,530	641,000	473,000	No Stats	NA	15	202,716	2.79
1996	P	705	123,131	641,000	473,000	5,926	NA	26	951,580	7.73
1996	G	717	271,861	641,000	473,000	17,970	NA	57	685,452	2.52

Attachment #5

Year	Type	Precincts	Votes Cast	* Population	Eligible Voters	Absentee Voters	Counties Going Vote By Mail	Percent Turnout	Election Expense	Cost Per Vote
1998	P	700	99,157	641,000	474,896	4,315	NA	21	696,188	7.02
1998	G	702	217,584	640,883	475,860	18,263	NA	46	658,785	3.03
2000	P	693	94,306	633,666	473,574	5,102	NA	20	851,473	9.02
2000	G	696	292,249	633,666	473,574	37,632	NA	62	731,220	2.50
2002	P	663	128,519	642,200	481,351	8,194	NA	27	774,285	8.87
2002	G	666	237,224	642,200	481,351	34,816	NA	49	714,212	5.06
2004	P	604	92,209	633,837	487,010	6,019	NA	19	786,146	8.53
2004	G	607	316,049	633,837	487,010	51,116	NA	65	751,160	2.38
2006	P	565	111,325	634,366	495,411	8,702	NA	22	826,998	11.55
2006	G	567	220,479	634,366	495,411	34,073	NA	45	876,318	6.31
2008	P	528	102,886	639,715	496,906	14,846 ¹ 5,966 ²	22	20	1,036,309	17.92
2008	G	528	321,133	639,715	496,906	30,690 ¹ 46,534 ²	21	64	1,024,420	5.55
2010	P	505	102,066	646,844	502,873	20,831 ¹ 4,910 ²	25	20	1,018,814	9.98
2010	G	505	240,876	646,844	502,873	32,812 ¹ 32,603 ²	25	47	924,816	3.84
2012	P	426	175,303	672,591	532,776	27,983 ¹ 12,990 ²	26	33	1,352,114	7.71

*Population estimates calculated by the North Dakota Census Data Center

¹ Mail ballots cast in vote-by-mail counties

² Absentee ballots cast in non-vote-by-mail counties

County	Early Voting Location	Address	City	State	Zip Code	Early Voting Open Date	Early Voting Open Time	Early Voting Closed Date	Early Voting Closed Time	Comments
Burleigh	Early Voting-City/County Building	221 N 5th St	Bismarck	ND	58501	2012/10/24		2012/11/05		10/24: 12:00PM-6:00PM 10/25: 10:00AM-6:00PM 10/26: 10:00AM-6:00PM 10/27: 9:00AM-1:00PM 10/29-11/2: 10:00 AM-6:00PM 11/3: 9:00AM-1:00PM 11/5: 10:00AM-5:00PM
Cass	Ev-Doublewood Inn	3333 13th Ave S	Fargo	ND	58103	2012/10/29	10:00AM	2012/11/02	7:00PM	
Cass	Ev Days Inn Casselton	2050 Governor's Drive	Casselton	ND	58012	2012/10/31	10:00AM	2012/11/02	7:00PM	
Cass	Ev Hilton Garden Inn	4351 17th Ave S	Fargo	ND	58103	2012/10/29	10:00AM	2012/11/02	7:00PM	
Grand Forks	Alerus Center Early Voting	1200 42nd St S	Grand Forks	ND	58201	2012/10/29	10:00AM	2012/11/02	6:00PM	
Morton	Morton County Courthouse	210 2nd Ave NW	Mandan	ND	58554	2012/10/26		2012/11/05		October 26, 2012 9:00am - 6:00pm October 27, 2012 9:00am - 1:00pm October 29, 2012 through November 2, 2012 8:00am - 6:00pm November 3, 2012 9:00am - 1:00pm November 5, 2012 8:00am - 5:00pm
Stark	Stark County Courthouse	51 3rd St E	Dickinson	ND	58601	2012/10/29	8:00AM	2012/11/02	5:00PM	
Stark	Stark County Courthouse.			ND		2012/11/05	8:00AM	2012/11/05	1:00PM	
Stutsman	Stutsman County Courthouse	511 2nd Avenue SE	Jamestown	ND	58401	2012/10/22	8:00AM	2012/11/05	5:00PM	
Ward	Courthouse	315 3rd St SE	Minot	ND	58701	2012/10/25	11:00AM	2012/11/01	6:00PM	

Absentee / Vote-By-Mail Ballot and Early Voting Numbers (as of 1/31/2013 8:06:30 PM)

Total Absentee Ballots Sent	58,442
Total Absentee Ballots Returned	55,624
<i>Percentage of Absentee Ballots Returned</i>	<i>95.18 %</i>
Total Vote-By-Mail Ballots Sent	42,469
Total Vote-By-Mail Ballots Returned	39,760
<i>Percentage of Vote-By-Mail Ballots Returned</i>	<i>93.62 %</i>
Total Absentee / Vote-By-Mail Ballots Sent (Statewide)	100,911
Total Absentee / Vote-By-Mail Ballots Returned (Statewide)	95,384
<i>Percentage of Absentee / Vote-By-Mail Ballots Returned</i>	<i>94.52 %</i>
Early Voting Turnout	41,530
Total Ballots Cast prior to Election Day	136,914