

Testimony HB 2271
House Government and Veteran Affairs Committee
March 18, 2021

Mr. Chairman and members of the House Government and Veterans Committee, my name is Don Morrison. I live in Bismarck and am providing testimony for North Dakota Voters First. We are a non-partisan group of North Dakotans working to strengthen our democracy, help make our elections and public policy more open, ethical, and accountable to the people of our state.

SB 2271's provisions to not release vote counts would bring unprecedented secrecy to our elections. Not releasing votes counts in North Dakota means we will not know the actual election results of how our precincts, counties, districts, or state voted until after the Electoral College has cast their ballots. At that point it is too late for any of us in North Dakota to have done any public scrutiny of the actual election results for president of our country. Is that the kind of open and transparent government we pride ourselves about in our state?

Americans of all perspectives – conservative, moderate or liberal – believe in open government. North Dakota Voters First joins Republicans, Democratic-NPLers, Libertarians, blogger Rob Port, talk show host Scott Hennen and many others to urge you to recommend a DO NOT PASS on SB 2271. Thank you for the opportunity to talk with you this morning. I would try to answer any questions you may have.