

**2023 HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**HB 1204**

# 2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1204  
1/27/2023

Relating to requiring a candidate for the legislative district office of state representative to designate for which position the candidate is running, and to placing an applicant's name on the ballot and the order of offices on the ballot.
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Chairman Schauer called the meeting to order at 10:18 AM.

Chairman Austen Schauer, Vice Chairman Bernie Satrom, Reps. Landon Bahl, Claire Cory, Jeff A. Hoverson, Jorin Johnson, Karen Karls, Scott Louser, Carrie McLeod, Karen M. Rohr, Vicky Steiner, Steve Vetter, Mary Schneider. All present.

### **Discussion Topics:**

- Competitive elections
- System of voting for state representatives in North Dakota
- Changes to election ballots

Rep. Vetter introduced HB 1204 with supportive testimony (#17417).

Chairman Schauer adjourned the meeting at 10:30 AM.

*Phillip Jacobs, Committee Clerk*

# 2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1204  
2/9/2023

Relating to requiring a candidate for the legislative district office of state representative to designate for which position the candidate is running, and to placing an applicant's name on the ballot and the order of offices on the ballot.

Chairman Schauer called the meeting to order at 8:51 AM.

Chairman Austen Schauer, Vice Chairman Bernie Satrom, Reps. Landon Bahl, Claire Cory, Jeff A. Hoverson, Jorin Johnson, Karen Karls, Scott Louser, Carrie McLeod, Karen M. Rohr, Vicky Steiner, Steve Vetter, and Mary Schneider. All present.

### Discussion Topics:

- Competitive elections
- Electing state representatives
- Changes to election ballots
- Term limits
- Committee work

Rep. Vetter moved a do pass on HB 1204.

Seconded by Rep. Hoverson.

### Roll Call Vote:

Representatives	Vote
Representative Austen Schauer	N
Representative Bernie Satrom	N
Representative Landon Bahl	AB
Representative Claire Cory	N
Representative Jeff A. Hoverson	Y
Representative Jorin Johnson	Y
Representative Karen Karls	N
Representative Scott Louser	N
Representative Carrie McLeod	N
Representative Karen M. Rohr	Y
Representative Mary Schneider	N
Representative Vicky Steiner	AB
Representative Steve Vetter	Y

Motion fails 4-7-2.

Rep. Louser moved a do not pass on HB 1204.

Seconded by Vice Chairman Satrom.

Roll Call Vote:

<b>Representatives</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Representative Austen Schauer	Y
Representative Bernie Satrom	Y
Representative Landon Bahl	AB
Representative Claire Cory	Y
Representative Jeff A. Hoverson	N
Representative Jorin Johnson	N
Representative Karen Karls	Y
Representative Scott Louser	Y
Representative Carrie McLeod	Y
Representative Karen M. Rohr	N
Representative Mary Schneider	Y
Representative Vicky Steiner	AB
Representative Steve Vetter	N

Motion carries 7-4-2.

Carried by Vice Chairman Satrom.

Chairman Schauer adjourned the meeting at 9:04 AM.

*Phillip Jacobs, Committee Clerk*

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**HB 1204: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Rep. Schauer, Chairman)**  
recommends **DO NOT PASS** (7 YEAS, 4 NAYS, 2 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB  
1204 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

**TESTIMONY**

**HB 1204**



# North Dakota House of Representatives

STATE CAPITOL  
600 EAST BOULEVARD  
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360



## Representative Steve Vetter

District 18  
804 South 17th Street  
Grand Forks, ND 58201-4241

[smvetter@ndlegis.gov](mailto:smvetter@ndlegis.gov)

### COMMITTEES:

Judiciary  
Government and Veterans Affairs

01/27/2023

Chairman Schauer and GVA committee,

My name is Steve Vetter representing district 18

This bill deals the elections with the House of Representatives. This bill allows the people of a district to directing elect each one of their Representatives. This is not a sub district. Nothing changes with the district. There is only one change. Instead of voting for two in a jumbo election, each of the two Representatives run for one of the two slots.

Example: I declare my that I want to run for position A or B with both having the exact same constituency and borders. The next candidate can choose to run ain't me for position A or run for position B.

What is the common saying. "If you don't like someone , vote them out." That is not true in the ND House of Representatives as you need to vote out two people make sure vote someone out of office.

In competitive districts, the current system causes "running mates" to be frienemies" friend and competitor. One person one vote. In the current system, casting only one vote for one candidate helps your favorite candidate the most as this gives them a one vote advantage of all three competitors in a 4 person race. A person should be able to vote for both Representatives even if they like one more than the other. Each office should get its own vote.

The current system forces Representatives from the same district to be tied to each other. The decisions or actions of one affects the other. Examples:

A person should on their own merit and not in conjunction with another Representative.

Sometimes change is hard but this change if for the better. It allows each Representative to be responsible for their own actions and it allows the people to have more freedom and choice in who they elect for office. The House of Representatives is often called the people's house this bill echoes that sentiment and truly allows the ND House of Representatives to be chosen by the people.

Please consider this bill and give it a Do Pass recommendation. I will stand for questions.