

CITY OF BOZEMAN TESTIMONY
Maas
State Administration Committee
01-16-2023

Good Morning, Chair Dooling and State Administration Committee Members, My name is **Mike Veselik (V-E-S-E-L-I-K)**, City of Bozeman's Economic Development Program Manager, I am pinch hitting for our city clerk who could not make it this morning. Thank you for the opportunity today to testify in **SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 186** on behalf of the City of Bozeman.

House Bill 186 is a narrowly focused and simple bill to provide an additional option for cities and towns to hold special purpose district elections on the same day as general election day.

HB 186 would allow cities and towns a more straightforward and transparent presentation to their voters for questions related to special districts. As it stands now, the requirement for these specific questions to be out of alignment with commonly understood election dates reduces voter participation.

For example in May 2020, Bozeman had a special purpose district election on the ballot. During this election, turnout was 34.7%. Later that year, during the November 2020 general election, turnout was 41.5%. People participate when they know what day they are voting.

Further, additional elections administered by cities and towns increases the financial impacts on their citizens, creates unnecessary confusion, and excessive bureaucratic process.

HB 186 would allow cities and towns to streamline bureaucratic processes, provide a greater level of fiscal responsibility, and better serve their citizens.

Thank you Chair Dooling and members of the State Administration Committee for hearing my testimony **SUPPORTING HOUSE BILL 186** today. I look forward to answering any questions you may have.

*******FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY*******

Please insert any questions you would like Members of the Committee to ask below here. These questions should provide opportunity for you to expand on your original testimony or make additional points.

1. How much does a typical municipal election cost?
2. What is the difference in voter turnout for a May special election from a November general election?
3. What do current municipal elections look like now?