

Good evening,

I'm sorry that I missed the short hearing on SB225 this evening - I was delayed at another hearing. We do have testimony which we would like to provide in neutral on this bill as follows:

My name is Jim DeGraffenreid, and I am Nevada's Republican National Committeeman, providing neutral testimony on SB225 on behalf of the Nevada Republican Party.

We believe that while it makes sense to have a fee for ballot access in any election, the \$8,000 that this fee would have raised in 2024 is insignificant compared to the amount of taxpayer dollars wasted on the Presidential Preference Primary.

At a time when every state budget dollar is precious, we question why the state wants to waste the time of our registrars and clerks and millions of taxpayer dollars on a meaningless election.

In 2024, the state of Nevada created confusion in the Presidential nominating process by introducing an unnecessary and non-binding Presidential Preference Primary, in an attempt to usurp the well established caucus process. This new election on the calendar was in conflict with party rules and the laws of other states, and placed a significant extra and unwanted workload on our clerks and registrars. It also endangered Nevada's position as the First in the West nominating state, threatening to make us a flyover state and irrelevant to the nominating process.

In the end, only 3 of the 9 serious candidates for the nomination chose to enter the state's primary, along with 5 vanity candidates. 80,249 votes were cast, with "None of the Above" handily winning the election with 63% of the vote, beating Nikki Haley who received 30% of the vote, Mike Pence with 4% and Tim Scott with just over 1%. The remaining four candidates combined received less than 1% of the vote. No delegates were earned by any candidate, and the results had nothing to the nominating process.

The Republican Party held our usual caucus two days later on February 8, and Donald Trump won 99% of the approximately 60,000 ballots cast.

If you're going to hold a Presidential Preference Primary, we agree that it's important for the state to implement ballot access fees. However, it makes no sense to waste resources and taxpayer dollars on the Presidential Preference Primary at all, and we suggest simply eliminating it completely, making SB225 a moot point.

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