

**Senate State Affairs Committee**  
**Friday, February 16, 2024 - 8:00 A.M.**  
**TESTIMONY ON: All Subjects**

**Written Testimony**

<b>Name (First &amp; Last)</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Manner Testifying</b>	<b>Representing Company/Organization</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>For / Against</b>	<b>Wish to Testify</b>	<b>District #</b>
BRENDA GILCHRIST	S 1273	V	SELF	DONNELLY	For	Y	8

I support this bill. I have personally experienced meeting uninformed voters while knocking on doors during election season. Registered voters I spoke with were unaware that there was an election and many said they would not vote because they didn't know what was on the ballot. We need to inform voters of the election dates and what to expect will be on their ballot when they show up at their polling station. This will also encourage more people to vote, many of which are very concerned about the direction of our country and want to have a voice, but want to be informed. I would like to see an amendment to bring all the off cycle elections (odd and even year elections in May) be consolidated with a general election.

Jason Mercier	S 1273	V	Mountain States Policy Center	Coeur d'Alene	For	Y	5
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Voting is one of the most important responsibilities and rights we have as citizens. It can be difficult at times, however, to find the needed information about those running for office who want to represent us. This is why several states authorize their Secretary of State to provide a statewide voters' guide to help provide these important details.

The National Association of Secretaries of States (NASS) says that several states currently provide a voters' guide including Alabama, Alaska, California, Florida, Oregon, and Washington.

Here is how the Alaska Secretary of State explains this resource:

"During a Primary and General election year the Division of Elections publishes two official pamphlets designed to help Alaskan voters make informed choices. Pamphlets are available in printed, digital, and audio formats; and made available to the public no later than 22 days prior to Election Day. Printed versions are mailed to every voter household and digital versions are posted to this page. Digital versions of the pamphlets are also available in select languages."

A recent Boise State University poll found strong public support (78%) for Idaho to provide a voters' guide.

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Jason Mercier	<i>cont.</i>						5
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Along with a traditional printed and online voters' guide, another resource worth considering is a Video Voters' Guide. This would allow voters to go to one place to see and hear candidates in their own words about why they are running for office.

A voters' guide usually provides basic demographic and background information about candidates, generally in their own words, to help voters have a standardized reference for learning more about those seeking office. Providing a statewide voter guide is not only popular with Idahoans but is also a best practice that all states should consider to help provide voters with the information they need to make informed decisions about those wishing to represent them.

S1273 would help provide these important details for Idaho voters.

Background: <https://www.mountainstatespolicy.org/idaho-senate-bill-1273-would-authorize-a-statewide-voters-guide>

Karen M. Hansen	S 1273	W	self	Viola	For	N	6
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State Affairs Committee Members,  
Please support SB~1273.

I have lived and voted in states where voter guides were prepared and sent to all registered voters. I found the information very helpful. I was able to do some research and think through my choices well before casting my ballot. The modest expense is well worth it.

Regards,  
Karen M. Hansen  
Viola, ID

Kathy Dawes	S 1273	W	self	Moscow	For	N	6
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I am very much in favor of bill S 1273. I have lived in Idaho for over 50 years and we have needed this for a long time! People have busy lives and don't have much time to research all the candidates in an election. This will make it much easier for voters to become informed, which all of us should be before we go to the polls. Please vote YES on this bill! Thank you.

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Field Herrington	S 1303	W	City of Post Falls	Post Falls	For	N	5

I am the City Attorney for the City of Post Falls.

On behalf of the City of Post Falls, we wish to express our support for Senate Bill No. 1303. This legislation simplifies our state's approach to personal service contracts by reorganizing existing provisions under the procurement statutes, enhancing both ease of use and comprehension. Placing this requirement with the rest of the regulations governing local procurement will make it easier for local agencies to comply with the code.

Further, this bill reflects an adjustment to the realities of our economic environment, raising the threshold for contract publication from \$10,000 to \$50,000. This change acknowledges the impact of inflation over the years and aligns the statute with current financial realities, ensuring that the requirements for transparency and accountability remain practical and relevant. Resetting the threshold to \$50,000 will help strike a balance between the costs of publishing such notice versus informing the public of larger personal service contracts.

By streamlining the location of these provisions and updating financial thresholds, Senate Bill No. 1303 ensures that our procurement processes remain transparent, efficient, and accessible to local agencies and their citizens.

The City of Post Falls is pleased to support legislation that promotes an informed and engaged citizenry through enhanced transparency. We believe that Senate Bill No. 1303 is a positive step forward in achieving these goals and urge its passage. Please send this to the floor with a do-pass recommendation.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.