

Dear «First»,

Our system of government is based upon representation: we elect people to public office to pursue and protect our rights and interests. How we select representatives, and who they represent, are crucial contributions to the success or failure of local government.

The purpose of this survey is to ask Fargo residents like you for their thoughts on Fargo's current system of government. Your input will be valuable in gauging current satisfaction with our city government as well as interest in considering a different form of government. This is your opportunity to express your opinions about the nature of Fargo city government and indicate whether you feel represented by our leadership.

**What form of city government does Fargo have now?**

Fargo is currently overseen by a Commission form of government. The Mayor and four Commissioners are elected at-large, meaning each commissioner represents the entire city rather than a specific geographic section of Fargo. Many other American cities are overseen by a Council form of government. In a city council form of government, each councilor serves a geographic section of the city, called a district or ward. City councilors represent specific areas of the city rather than the entire city.

**Share your thoughts on the way the city of Fargo is governed.**

You can fill out the paper copy of this survey and mail it back, or use the QR code on this letter to complete the survey online. It should take about 10 minutes, and participation is voluntary. Your survey has a number for reference purposes only. All survey responses will be kept strictly confidential and used collectively for statistical purposes only. Your name or ID will never be associated with your responses in any kind of reporting.

**Who is asking?**

I am Dr. Nicholas Bauroth, a political science professor at North Dakota State University (NDSU). I have been a part of the Fargo community for nearly twenty years, and have always been interested in Fargo's unique position as a city with a City Commission – most cities of similar size in America have councils. I am interested to hear about Fargo residents' thoughts on this government and how it works for its citizens. I have engaged the Center for Social Research at NDSU to conduct the data collection for this survey.

If you have questions or concerns about this survey, please contact me at (701) 231-6174 or [nicholas.bauroth@ndsu.edu](mailto:nicholas.bauroth@ndsu.edu). If you have questions about your rights as a research subject, you may contact NDSU's Institutional Review Board (IRB) at [ndsu.irb@ndsu.edu](mailto:ndsu.irb@ndsu.edu).

Survey reporting will be made available on the website of the Upper Midwest Center on Public Policy at NDSU via: <https://www.ndsu.edu/centers/publicpolicy/>. The reports will also be shared with local media, community leaders and other interested parties.

This study was approved by the NDSU IRB (IRB0004803) and funded by the Clouston Family Political Science and Public Policy Faculty Fellowship. Thank you for your participation.

Sincerely,



Dr. Nicholas Bauroth

Department of Political Science and Public Policy  
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