



**Representatives Tex Fischer and Adam Mathews  
59<sup>th</sup> and 56<sup>th</sup> House Districts**

Chair Ray, Vice Chair LaRe, Ranking Member Brent, and members of the House General Government Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 264. The concept behind this bill is simple: taxpayer dollars should go to informing the public, not campaigning. Just as we have clear rules delineating how we operate in the Statehouse, we should not have blurred lines for others that appear on the ballot. Elected officials and political subdivisions can be tempted to use public funds to send out mass mailers just before elections. There are certainly many benefits that come with incumbency, but one that should absolutely not be tolerated under any circumstances is the ability to use tax dollars to campaign.

We have come up with a straightforward solution to take a big step forward in the responsible usage of our tax dollars. House Bill 264, if enacted, would prohibit unsolicited mailings of these government publications from being distributed 30 days prior to an election. Some of you may be thinking this sounds familiar, and you are correct. We, as House members, impose this same ban on ourselves in the time leading up to an election, and it is our belief that all government entities should play by the same rules. Nothing in this bill stops people from necessary communication regarding constituent services or newsletters where citizens opted into communication. Further, standalone levy or political campaigns can continue as they always have. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today, and we are happy to answer any questions you may have.