

**Burleigh County Public Input Form**  
 Redesignating Elective Office of Auditor/Treasurer to Appointed

First and Last Name	Y	N	Comments
Joshua Jochim	X		The qualifications need to be more than what they are now.
gary olson	X		
William Lengenfelder		X	Some of the founding fathers were as young as 18 and 21 years old. Do you think I care what the qualifications are for the county Auditor? I voted him into office, are you calling us the voters unable to decide wether we think someone is qualified? We make the decision, it's become entirely clear after the first meeting on March 3, that there NEEDS to be checks and balances in place. I do not trust our county commission alone with the pocket book of my tax payer dollars. Get rid of this garbage, never has taking power away from the people been a good solution. I would like to see every one of these commissioners GONE. Not a single one of you will receive my vote. Mark will be getting my vote, oh wait, you took it away you crooks. Hopefully the right thing prevails and every single one of you loses your seat.
Annette Jochim	X		Need higher qualifications to be auditor.
Jerome Jochim	X		Higher qualification needed.
Donna Shelton		X	I do feel the auditor treasurer job should have an accounting or business degree, and whoever runs for the office in 2027, must be qualified.
Kristy Lokken		X	
Jennifer Repnow		X	
Alexandria Splonskowski		X	
Michele Paul		X	
Catherine Phelps		X	
John Phelps		X	
Vicki L Laraway		X	If you think the current treasurer is incompetent, petition him out, recall, whatever, but I do NOT trust all the power of the money be handed to 5 commissioners, ESPECIALLY the current commission. ABSOLUTELY not. Do NOTtey to take the voice of the People.
Tawny Camp		X	I absolutely DO NOT AGREE with this idea to make this position appointed. Keeping this position as elected keeps our money handlers honest and accountable because they are going to have to answer to someone that is not picked by the politicians, but by THE PEOPLE.
Aidan Repnow		X	
Darlene Roppel		X	Absolutely not. This should be the people's choice not just a few who will choose someone who goes along with their (the county commissioners) wants and desires. The auditor needs to be responsible to the people of the county.
Nathan Schneider		X	I think we need to have minimum qualifications for the Auditor position. This position is in charge of millions of taxpayer dollars and only needs to be 18 and a residence. The lack of qualifications does not make me very comfortable with that person being in charge of my tax dollars. We have minimum qualifications for the State's Attorney and Sherriff why not the Auditor as well. I also do not buy the "taking away our voice" argument. We do not elect the County Engineer or County Planner and things have not deteriorated into anarchy.
Emma Glant		X	
Sara Fisher		X	
Mark Fisher		X	
Christopher DeLupo		X	
Dan Richter		X	Why take away the citizens right to vote. The commissioners we have already showed us they can't manage the money. Take a look at the Provident Light building. Biggest money pit ever.
Amanda Schell		X	Create more requirements/ qualifications for those who can run and leave it to be elective

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Bea Streifel	X		The people overwhelmingly voted in 2020 to keep the office of Auditor/Treasurer an elected position. This must go to a vote of the citizens of Burleigh County if changes are to be made. The paragraph in the Home Rule Charter was hidden from the people and the States Attorney gave misleading information to the committee. If the concern is the qualifications to be Burleigh County Auditor, then change the qualifications. It's that simple. Do not take away the vote of the people.
Deb Burke		X	There should be requirements (accountant, auditor experience or whatever is decided)for the candidates but the citizens should vote on whom to elect into the position.
Shari Neigum	X		The residents of Burleigh county already voted on this to keep the position elected. Why do we have to rehash this issue again? Commissioner Woodcox behavior at the 3-3-25 meeting was unacceptible. He wants an auditor with experience? How did he get experience to be a county commissione? Did he not have to learn the ropes? We the people elected Mark Splonskowski to the Auditor position.
Cindy Anhorn		X	This is an elected position and should remain as an elected position, allowing the people of Burleigh County to maintain the power to place in office who we choose. The commission should not be allowed to appoint who they choose.
Maik Mueller		X	Absolutely not! You can't appoint the person that does the checks and balances.
Jennifer Bailey	X		I believe that the position of Auditor/Treasurer needs to be someone who meets certain qualifications. We need to set standards for positions that carry a lot of weight. At a bare minimum the Auditor should have a bachelor's degree in accounting or business. A CPA license would be a preferred candidate. If the Auditor is going to be looking at public funds to make sure they are being utilized in an appropriate way, that person should have a deep understand of accounting.
Lana Zimmerman	X		The residents of Burleigh County deserve an individual who is educated and has experience to complete the functions of the auditors office. Additionally, appointing an educated and experience individual to serve long term will assist with continuity of operations for the betterment of all residents.
Olivia Kuntz	X		The office of Burleigh County Auditor should be appointed. We are the second largest county in the state and the only County with a top population (Cass, Burleigh, GF, Ward) who have no qualifications for this position. The residents of our county deserve better.
Sean Johnson		X	<p>Yes or no really does not capture my opinion here. I wish there was an Other selection where I could detail my thoughts better, which I'll do here.</p> <p>It is my hope the position can remain an elected one, but I would favor requiring minimum qualifications to be elected to the position that are linked to the responsibilities of the office. This is not unprecedented, and could create a win win solution for the current dilemma. The ND Constitution for example requires in Article V Section 4 that the Attorney General must be licensed to practice law in the state. A similar provision could apply to the auditor/treasurer for licensed financial competency (eg CPA). The Sheriff must be a licensed peace officer (prior to or immediately after election). I would imagine that an elected States Attorney must have a JD from an accredited law school and be a member of the ND Bar to be elected to the position. If not, that maybe should be addressed alongside the auditor/treasurer. In reality, any of the technical positions that are elected should be reviewed for technical competency requirements, no different than if the positions were appointed or hired as FTEs.</p> <p>There is a way ahead to keeping this position an elected one while requiring formal competencies. That I believe should be the focus of the Commission.</p>
karen wolfer		X	Appointing someone is TAKING AWAY MY RIGHT TO VOTE FOR AUDITOR/TREASURER it is absolutely ludicrous to allow the commissioners the right to aappoint who they want asAuditor and Treasurer~ heck, they don't even understand how property taxes work and they now want to appoint an Auditor. THE PEOPLE DESERVE TO VOTE WHO WE WANT

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Audree Joern		X	I believe the position of county auditor/treasurer should remain an elected position so We the People can elect who we want for the position. This is a VERY IMPORTANT piece of the checks and balances that should be in place. However I also believe there should be minimum qualifications required for someone to even be able to run for the position. I fully believe the current auditor should NOT have sent the message he sent requesting people not vote for a certain person but would really prefer the commission and the auditor work things out at least enough to work together to do what is best for the constituents. Personal feelings need to be set aside right now.
Susan Ronning	X		There should be more professional requirements of such an important position.
Kristy Rose		X	The commissioners look foolish, bitter and like they're trying to hide something with this witch hunt. Splonskowski has displayed greater maturity and integrity than all of you combined. At the meetings, he's the only one doing anything and he talks to the constituents. I think it's foolish and a conflict of interest to have auditor/treasurer combined. I would support separating the two offices, making treasurer appointed and leaving auditor as elected. I cant tell you how disappointed I am at the amount of time you are wasting on this issue and how unprofessional you have been. It's embarrassing. You each have lost my vote based on this.
Scott Rose		X	This position should not be an appointed position. I do not support changing or redesignation.
Michele Mueller	X		I am willing to approve the redesignation so long as appropriate measures are put in place that allow for the proper oversight and procedures are put in place. There needs to be accountability for the individual performing these job duties, especially in instances where fraud are suspected. I hope that policies are put in place that do not allow a candidate to be selected because of who they know, favoritism or nepotism.
Kristi Maedche		X	There needs to be check and balances If this is appointed that will not be the case Also this change should be voted on not decided by biased commissioners
Alissa Schramm		X	The position of county auditor/treasurer needs to remain an elected office. The voters have the right to elect someone they believe will do the job well and hold the commission accountable.
William & Darla Steidler	X		
Rick Detwiler		X	Watching our current County Auditor/Treasurer since the 2022 election leaves me with impression that the State qualifications (age & resident) are not sufficient alone to hold this important office. I am of the opinion that we elect county commissioners and entrust them to hire qualified department heads and employees. I do not believe that the current auditor/treasurer possesses the skill set necessary to carry out the duties of the office and shows little desire to acquire the skills / knowledge to fulfill said duties. Burleigh County needs and deserves better!
Deidra Boucher		X	The Auditor in Burleigh County should be appointed to ensure appropriate functions of the office. An educated individual with experience in leadership and management should be a requirement of a position handling millions of dollars, administering elections, and serving as the chief financial officer of a county this size. Requirements and experience are needed in other jobs similar to this.
LaVonne Messer		X	
Kristie Parr		X	Keep it ELECTED position, like we voted on.
Michael Parr		X	We voted to make this an elected position. That is what we want to do.
Haley Wilder		X	
mark binder	X		I do approve that this position should be appointed for the reason I believe that many people vote by party instead of voting for the most qualified person
Ryan Marquart		X	I personally believe that the people of Burleigh County should have the ultimate say in whom they elect to the position of Auditor/Treasurer.
Jeff Olson	X		
Shelley Sharp		X	I wholeheartedly support the move to make this position one that is appointed. Given the responsibilities of this position, it definitely needs to be filled by a person with the qualifications and/or experience to fulfill those duties. The person in this position needs to not only manage the day-to-day responsibilities of the office, but also the personnel whom they supervise. It is imperative to have a cohesive office and hopefully one without constant turnover.

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Lee Ann Barnhardt	X		The county needs to be good stewards of our tax dollars and maximize the return of every dollar collected. The auditor/treasurer is an important position, and should have a qualified person with a degree in finance or accounting. Burleigh is an urban county with a large budget and operation and needs experience to guide it.
Jill Bourgois	X		
Enid Bachman	X		As long as the qualifications for the office are met by the applicant and this doesn't become a selection by the "Old Boys Club" as what happened when a replacement for Becky Matthews position was decided. At that time there was no consideration given to the next eligible contender from the previous election (Amelia Doll) for the office of county commissioner. It seemed like the commission just selected a good friend to fill the vacancy.
Jeff Dinius		X	The public needs input on this position. If appointed the person would be under the control of the board and not the citizens of Burleigh County. I've lived here over 7 years now and I submit there needs to be term limits for the board members. New members every 4 years or 2 terms would bring fresh new ideas instead of the old stale ones I've seen. Certain board members don't have the needed qualifications to be board members themselves from what I've seen and been told by numerous people. We need board members who come and go instead of members who do what they can to keep their spot than doing what's best for Burleigh County residents. Thank you
Darwin Reinhardt	X		I absolutely agree with the commission to change the auditor position from elective to appointed. This man has scoured the commission by parading his family members into the meetings to testify on his behalf. He should be able to defend his character by himself without needing someone else to carry his water.
Kelli Schroeder	X		I think it is of utmost importance that the person filling this position is qualified to handle the given work. Just like you wouldn't want an unqualified person being the county engineer, the county auditor should be educated and capable of handling their required duties. I fully support this change. Thank you.
Kent Rath		X	I believe making any position appointed leads to more corruption in government or any entity. The elected and especially appointed politicians and government employees forget that they work for we the people. I lived in Georgia for 32 years before moving back home and I can not believe how corrupt our legislators and county people are so corrupt. Y'all need to put on your big boy panties on and work this out like men. If y'all have a problem with the auditor/treasurer then lay it all out in public and start working on a solution instead of all this behind the scene crap. From what I can figure out it seems like this is more of a personality problem than anything else. Yes the auditor did some dumb shit when he first got elected, which he probably shouldn't have done but y'all need to get over it and get the job done. If he is as bad as y'll make him out to be then show the proof to the public who elected him and if its bad enough the public can potion to remove him, but right now its all he said you said. Thank you for setting up meetings at different places in the county. Kent Rath
Bridget Goldade		X	We voted to keep our auditor/treasurer elected by the people and it should stay that way. I have voted for all of the city commissioners at some point in time. I will not be voting for any member again should they take this right away from us. Bridget Goldade
Ryan LaPlante		X	The Auditor's Office should independently verify the financial integrity of the County Government. This obviously cannot be done if the Auditor must be responsive to the Commission's directives. I absolutely reject the efforts of the Commission to remove this decision from my purview as a voter. If this decision is moved forward, I will take it as a signal that the Commission does not intend to honor the elective voice of its constituents. In such a case, I would vote against every currently sitting member of the Commission at the earliest opportunity.
Allison Lengenfelder		X	To re-designate the position of Burleigh County's Auditor/Treasurer is to remove the voice of all current and future residents and tax payers of Burleigh County. Regardless who the candidates are or what their educational background is, the people of the county should be the ones to vote and designate the person that they feel is best fit for the position-NOT the commissioners. Their vote may not be my vote and as a taxpayer, my voice counts just as much as theirs.
Larry Wagner	X		Appointing a qualified person or entity should be imitated. Contracting with a qualified person or entity would also be a good option. Whatever option is used the County Commission should be able to legally dismiss the person for poor performance.

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Marie Horning		X	The Commission should rescind their motion for approval of the resolution of appointed office. I would suggest the commission start working on the 2026 budget and find a way to hire a County Administrator and move some duties that are not set by Century Code from Auditor/Treasurer job. Also look at splitting the Auditor and Treasure job possibly moving the Treasurer duties to Finance office. Not sure if it possible then look at the salary scale for the Auditor office and possibly if legal reduce salary based on reduced duties starting April 2027 after next election. Make sure this all happens before petition to run for Auditor are turned in so people can decided if this a position they want to run.
Josef Sollmann		X	
Valerie Fischer	X		Commissioners - I believe the role of County Auditor should be appointed. The basic requirement of age and residency is far too vague for the complexity of the position, especially as it relates to the ongoing and continued fiscal responsibilities. Almost all other ND counties of similar size have transitioned to an appointed position. It might be advisable for the Commission and/or its legal counsel, to reach out to the other cities to determine why they changed, and the process used - this would give you increased merit and integrity in your decision and give the general Burleigh County public more information about why this is the best decision.
Brad Feldman		X	<p>I am not in favor of making the auditor position an appointed position because it is the residents of the county who should be holding their elected officials accountable. This includes the county commission.</p> <p>By making the auditor position appointed it creates a good old boys club that will not help the county in any way. The person will become a puppet for the commission. When the auditor starts to do things on their own that the commission does not like the commission could just get rid of them and get another puppet.</p> <p>I do believe that the duties of the Auditor/Treasurer need to be split. In order to be a treasurer this should have additional requirements similar to that of a CPA.</p> <p>In order to be the auditor, we have not had these issues when Kevin Glatt was in the same position.</p> <p>I personally believe Mark Splonskowski is not the right person for this position. He comes from a group of political people that believe there is a conspiracy against the people of the country, state and city. Mark is the one that needs to go and if you split the duties the people can put someone else in that position that is capable of doing the job.</p> <p>this process is becoming a circus and making Burleigh County look terrible. In my conversations with people in the know you guys all knew this was an issue well before it came out in the public. Therefore, I will questions your leadership abilities not to get this taken care of before it became an absolute disaster.</p> <p>This issue has to be put to a vote of the people because it was mishandled all across the board. I have no doubt that Mark will not be re-elected in the next election. He has shown his inability to do the job.</p>
Les Lanzo-Fusee		X	The People need to be able to vote on their leaders! If there are problems in the Auditor/Treasurer's office why can't there be suggestions for resolving these problems, instead of childish he said/she said banter! If we want a different leader we will put up a better candidate! Logic tells me The County Commission would want to keep the Auditor/Treasurer position to elected to keep from being accused of playing politics!
Jessica Bosworth	X		
Shirley Ryberg		X	It has been an elected position for the 40+ years I have been a school business manager and it has worked well. If it isn't broke, why fix it. We vote for other county offices as well as county commissioners so why should the auditor/treasurer be singled out. Set a criteria as to what the qualifications need to be to qualify to run for the office if that's an issue. I think the commissioners and auditor need to sit down like adults and get this issue resolved instead of bickering back and forth which accomplishes nothing except create hard feelings and animosity. It shouldn't be that hard to do. I believe you owe the Burleigh County citizens to vote for this office.

First and Last Name	Y	N	Comments
Joseph Schweitzer		X	
Pamela Grasz		X	
Peter Kraemer		X	We would like to continue to vote for our auditor. This enables the public (us) to elect people WE see fit, not just someone thats another politician's buddy. We want transparency.
Madonna Richter	X		
Clare Schnaible	X		
Roger Loven	X		When this matter was placed on the ballot a couple of years ago, I voted for the Auditor/Treasurer to remain an elected position. Now I realize that the Auditor/Treasurer needs some specific education and skills to perform the tasks of the office. It is much better for the Auditor/Treasurer to be hired by the county so a qualified person performs the tasks of the office.
william d sennert		X	i believe the separate election of county auditor/treasurer is a form of checks and balances. this position needs to be accountable to the electorate.
Christa Wiederholt		X	I want those in government positions who are making decisions to be elected and therefor accountable to the citizens.
Annie Schweitzer		X	Auditors are positions that are elected not appointed
Makilie		X	This is absolutely appalling we the people have to sit here for a THIRD time within 5 years to say that we want to leave the Auditor/treasurer position as an elected position. We have told you before, we do not want you(who are corrupt) to appoint our Auditor/treasurer! The last thing I want for my county is for you to have more power. So if your job is to 'work for the people' then do just that! It doesn't seem you are. Otherwise I wouldn't have to sit here and defend my rights. I'll pray for your soul. Thanks
Monique C Kraemer		X	The office of Auditor/Treasurer should be an elected position that all county citizens can vote for. We want our voice to be heard on such an important postition.
Dean Jilek		X	I believe in the right of the people to decide. We have voted on this position to be chosen by the people, not as an appointed position. In 2020, this proposal for the office of Auditor/Treasurer to be appointed was voted down 67%-33%. I am confused why this is still being proposed? Please tell me why you want to take the power away from the people, especially since we voted to keep it as is? Thank you, Dr. Dean Jilek
Wendy O'Neill		X	Electing officials to represent citizens must remain how these positions are filled. The Burleigh County Commission must not be allowed to usurp the rights that belong to *we the people* of Burleigh County.
Garnet Berg		X	It takes away the people's choice.
Mark Ruhland	X		The county commission should be in charge of the auditor's position.
Brad Wiederholt		X	I strongly oppose this effort to remove my right to have direct input into what should be an elected position in the county. I also believe this is a very transparent attempt to remove the commission's political enemy.
Vickie Volk		X	Please keep this as an elected office. There MUST be a separation from the commissioners to help with intriguity. We have voted to keep this a voted position. Honor our voices and vote.
Connie Tschider	X		Get Splonskowski out of there! He is not qualified to hold the position, and it is obvious that he is in way over his head...runs a disorganized mess!  PS...keep Bitner and get rid of Splonskowski and his disrespectful, unprofessional supporters
Teresa Bauer		X	I want this position accountable to the voters, not the commission. This position needs the ability to disagree with the commissioners without fear of termination.
Troy Volk	X		
Shawn Mistelski	X		
Sandy Denis		X	The auditor/treasurer position needs to continue to be elected instead of appointed. We citizens deserve the right to choose who represents us, that person is our voice. Maybe this needs to be split up into 2 separate positions, auditor and treasurer. That may make things easier.

First and Last Name	Y	N	Comments
Vicki L (Otto)Laraway		X	<p>I am not sure why you 5 men believe that you can make this an appointed position. We have already been through this a few times and it was brought to the vote of We the People. What was the answer from the People? You are wasting our time, our tax dollars, and causing MUCH harm and dissention in our Couty. You are making a laughing stalk of your positions and to those that will hold those seats after you leave. The stack of reports that you have shows the time wasted to take our vote from us. STOP the madness so that you can push a selfish goal of trying to rid yourself of a man that is not afraid to challenge you when it is needed. Sirs, YOU do not need any more power. Some of you can't even control your hate towards a man that was elected by We the People. Mr. Schwab, you were removed once. It's too bad that the people of ND vote more on name recognition than doing a history search of who and what that person is about. You keep stating with your mouth that this isn't person for you, but you show your hate and ego plainly in the meetings. You cannot hide that. You also lied at the last public hearing. We are listening. You said that Mark had not met with any of the banks that hold our investments. Mark had to ask you several time if you KNEW that he had not met with the banks. You argued until you finally admitted that you DO NOT INFAC T KNOW IF HE HAD! Step down, sir. You are a liar and everyone that watched that meeting saw you lie. I have a feeling that we will be seeing a huge turnover in this commission in the next few years. You can bet that I will be out campaigning against any of you. I will run, myself, if others don't step up to run.</p> <p>In case you haven't gotten the message yet, I am TOTALLY against you trying to usurp the vote of the people. NO, on making the Auditor position an appointed position.</p>
Sterling Breuer	X		I have viewed the recent County Commission meetings and observe the current Auditor/Treasurer is increasing my taxes by not earning income on funds. I find it very sad that an elected office is so careless with the taxpayer's money. I whole heartedly encourage the redesignating the position to an appointed position. I believe you, the commission have been doing an excellent job looking out for the taxpayers in Burleigh County. I watch the proceedings regularly. KEEP UP the good work.
Andrew Schweitzer		X	Stop your bullshit and let us vote the dam person in
Amber Becker		X	
gayla johnson		X	Commissioners, that would be silly for you to select the auditor. No way. This should remain an elected position. What are earth are you thinking? There is more to this issue that is not being told and relayed to the people of Burleigh County.
Patricia Schroeder	X		
Vicki Bailey	X		This position absolutely needs someone with more experience than just being 18 years old and a resident of the county. He/she needs experience in handling funds, accounting, etc in order to handle the amount of money Burleigh County has to manage. Also this position/ persons job performance needs to be supervised and overlooked by the commissioners and the funds kept and eye on. What happened with Mr. Splonskowskj not doing his job and losing all that money for us Burleigh county residents was just ridiculous! Was no one watching over him???
Thomas Sharp	X		I feel that the auditor position needs to be appointed so that there are some required qualifications to be able to run for the ever important Auditor position.
Michelle Mielke		X	I don't like the current auditor situation but I don't think converting it to an appointed position is the best choice. Voters need to have a voice in the electing the auditor/treasurer and also recalling them if the situation becomes unbearable.
Gerlynn Gabel		X	Leave it alone the people need to choose who we want. The commission makes way to many decisions for us already.
Connie Schwartz	X		<p>I planned to speak at the public hearing on 03/17/25 but felt it was a hostile atmosphere and was not comfortable to come to the podium.</p> <p>With the current media attention, I have learned more about the duties and responsibilities of the position, and the knowledge and education to be qualified for those duties and responsibilities. Therefore I am in support of the position of auditor/treasurer being appointed rather than elected and encourage the commission to continue with the resolution to change from the position from elected to appointed. Thank you for your service to the citizens of Burleigh County.</p>

First and Last Name	Y	N	Comments
Michael Schwartz	X		If there was any doubt in my mind as to the disposition of the position of Auditor it was removed by the testimony and the information about outstanding issues. The final straw for me was the director of Human Resources indicating a fraudulent request made by the current Auditor in regards to tax information to be provided to election workers. The Auditor has control over significant financial resources for Burleigh County and needs to have the proper credentials to do so. Regrettably the current Auditor needs to be recalled due to his actions and inactions.
Kate Herzog (citizen)	X		The Auditor/Treasurer position should contain requirements that the office holder or appointee be qualified through education and/or experience. Similarly to the elected State's Attorney requirements that they have their J.D.. Burleigh County is ND's second largest county by population and budget, and there should be requirements in place that ensure the Auditor/Treasurer is qualified to handle the duties. Accounting degree, CPA, audit experience, cash management experience, education and more. In any other business, employees handling this type of responsibility and this sized budget would need more qualifications and to meet specific requirements. The auditor/treasurer is a full time job, unlike the part-time commissioners, and therefore should be a position with more job qualifications. My comments are not about this commission or this auditor, but about what qualifications are needed to responsibly carry out the auditors duties. Should the position remain elected, I would encourage the county commission to bring forward legislation that adds additional requirements for elected county auditors/treasurers over a certain total budget they are managing. The 8-10 largest counties and budgets should require more qualifications beyond 18 and a citizen. I understand this is not an option now, so that is why I'm supporting this move to be an appointed position. Thank you for addressing this issue,
William & Pamela Helphrey	X		Due to the fact that there have been several incidents in which the current Auditor/Treasurer has not performed his duties as deemed necessary for the financial health of the county, changes need to be made to the required qualifications of the person holding the office. Those qualifications need to match the job description.
Anne Cleary	X		If the state law were to change to allow other stipulations for a person who wants to run for this type of position, then I would be fine with it staying an elected position. But since we aren't allowed to require a certain level of education or background with the elected position I think it becoming an appointed position is the best way to ensure the person in the role is equipped to do their job.
jenette leblang	X		Why wait until 2027? How many more tax dollars must be lost? Terminate the current job holder, compensate him if you must BUT replace him with a competent replacement!! Our tax dollars should not be jeopardized because of a rule ( <a href="https://ndlegis.gov/cencode/t11c10.pdf">https://ndlegis.gov/cencode/t11c10.pdf</a> ) that is irrelevant in this situation.
Jim Peluso	X		Supported it 5 years ago! If it is to remain elected it should be a downgrade from where it's at and the job description changed to more of a support position for the commission and elections. A CPA needs to be the chief financial officer for the county. The auditor if elected should have little to do with the county's finances.
Larry and Cheryl Stockert	X		Ths duties of secretary to the commission and tracking property tax information could be reassigned to other administrative county employees.
Kevin Wehri		X	I feel the redesignation of the Auditor/Treasurer should be put to a vote of the residents of Burleigh County.
Gerald Miller		X	I fully understand why Burleigh County Commission wants the position of Auditor as an appointed verses an elected, but feel the loop has not been closed as to the following questions: The current Auditor is an elected official, if the people of the county approve this redesignation it should not take effect until after the current term of office is complete, this has not yet been addressed. What is the job description and how will it change? If it is an appointed position and the next or future Burleigh County Commission wants to remove the person from the position what is the compensation for termination, severance pay package? What will the contract for the new appointed auditor position look like? These and many more questions must be considered, answered and finalized before I give my support to an appointed verses elected county auditor.

First and Last Name	Y	N	Comments
Bruce Wiese	X		<p>I could vote either way. There has to be another option so Auditor/Treasurer position can be held accountable /audited on an ongoing basis besides County Commissioners. If it takes splitting up the position so be it.. Something has to be done for accountability.</p> <p>ALL DEPTS SHOULD BE AUDITED BY OUTSIDE SOURCES-BETTER USE OF FUNDS THAN WHERE SOME GOES NOW. (CAPs not meant as yelling0ust trying to emphasis..)</p> <p>I understand people wanting to keep it as elected position. Personal option-- many who do not know who they are voting for and many times there is only one person listed. I don't remember for sure but I think Mark was only one on the ballot at the time.</p> <p>If you new there were things not being done correctly before Marks time why wasn't corrected then or followed up on?</p>
Ryan Giesler		X	
Mark Splonskowski		X	Respect the people right to choose their representatives. Keep our checks and balances in local government.
Jennifer Sammons		X	We have the right to vote and we should retain it. To take that away is government overreach.
Barbara and Steve Andrist	X		The Burleigh County auditor-treasurer needs to have certain skill sets regarding accounting, finance, public administration, policy development and evaluation and more. The only way to ensure that the auditor-treasurer has the appropriate training, education and background for this position is to make it an appointed position. There is no way to ensure that we have an appropriately trained and educated auditor-treasurer when it is an elected position. We have not come to this point of view because it's a way to get rid of Mark Splonskowski, though we do believe Splonskowki is a perfect example of why this should be an appointed position. Simply put, he was duly elected by the citizens of Burleigh County, and yet he does not have the skills, background or training to excel in it. The evidence is in how poorly he has performed his duties. Please adopt the plan to make auditor-treasurer an appointed position so that the citizens of Burleigh County are served by professional and appropriate administrators.
Brad Milker	X		<p>the commission has been caught being as inept as they accuse the auditor of being. these public input meetings have done nkthing but show that keeping the power in the people is necessary. the current audotor drfinkately has his faults. the commission has shown they possess more poor leadership displayed at neetings, 90% of the accusations leveled at the auditor seem like projection, and tons of dishonesty with the public. if the commissioners cant be hinesst with the oublic why should the public teust them to appoint a qualified auditor. (the hr director and finance director make the casr this commission does not hire well)this childish needs to.be put to bed, and the obv policy and personnel issues. Julie Lawyer should be censured at a minimum, with the goal of being removed from office. knowingly lying to the public, weaponkzing her office, hiring suspected criminals. shielding those criminals from investigstions. are just a few of her list of delinquencies. not to mention that hatch act hogwash a 1st year law school sfudent wouldve been able to tell the commission kt fidnt apply.</p> <p>missing money, lying about projects, rising taxes, declining services, weed board,, horse park, public health, all issues the county can be addressed. and all issues that show why the oublic cannot trust these commissioners.</p>
Steven Kahl		X	There is value to having separation so the auditors opinions cannot be significantly influenced by the county commission. If there is an issue with the commission or the auditor take it to the voters don't change the process due to the people currently occupying the office or offices.
Roxane Hohimer	X		This is a big job for an elected official. My hope would be that if/when the position becomes an appointed position that there is hiring process and it's not something that will turn over as the political wind blows. Huge responsibility here. Someone mentioned that you hire good people to do the things that you don't know how to do, but you need to have experience to know what you don't know. The debacle with the W2s and 1099s is a prime example of someone who has absolutely no clue what's going on and apparently does not allow the people that are in those positions to do the appropriate job.
Liz Ternes		X	Allowing Burleigh County leaders/commission to hire their own auditor makes that auditor beholden to county leaders for their job and livelihoods. This will have a cooling affect on the taxpayers having independent auditor to hold Burleigh County leaders accountable. The voters of Burleigh County voted to keep this office elected and Burleigh County must NOT go against the will of the people and subvert our democracy.

First and Last Name	Y	N	Comments
Andrew Zaun		X	This great country was founded on the principle that we elect public servants to reflect the voice of the people. Changing the auditor position to appointed takes away the voice of the people.
Matthew Bosch		X	
Rick Hessinger		X	Do not want to give up the right to vote on individual candidate,
Karen Wolfer		X	Thiis is absurd~ we need to VOTE ~ you keep taking our rights away~ Learn to work together~ you are grown ups
Penny Miller	X		This is an important position in county government which should have proper qualifications to fit the position. It should not be a politically elected position. It is a professional position subject to for cause firing. Look at Cass County, Ward County and others.
Kenneth Lengenfelder		X	The position needs to remain an elected position. It is one level of checks and balances. The Burleigh County commission should not have that kind of control over the Auditor/ Treasures position. I understand both sides of the ongoing issue. A personal grievance/ issue with how the current auditor is doing his job, should not overturn the citizens ability to have a say on the position in question. This issue should be voted on by the citizens in a special election and the issue will be taken care of, one way or the other. If it is not important enough to have a special election, then the issue will need to be resolved by adults acting like adults. The meeting in Sterling really showed how the commissioners really feel about the issue. Saying for months that it is not a person issue really came to light. Please release all pertinent information (the stack of Commissioner Bitners papers) to the public for transparency. And how about sitting down and talking about the issue publicly. KFYR and a couple hours of Our elected officials time would be greatly appreciated. If it is as clear cut and one sided of an issue, it should be very apparent to all the public that would listen. Thank you
Susan Finneman	X		The responsibilities of this position should require a 4 year degree in Accounting, Finance, or Business. A home schooled high school graduate is in no way qualified.
James Small	X		need someone that has higher education in that position, they deal with a Lot of our tax dollars and we need all the savings we can get
Michael Towle		X	Can't the commission just change this? >>>>2. The director of Human Resources shall develop a job description to include all statutory job duties of the county auditor and county treasurer along with job qualifications, including experience in finance or accounting, and leave it as an elected position?
Blake Vetter	X		
Ashley Peyer		X	I dont think the auditor has been perfect by any means, i am an election worker who was given a late tax return and had to amend as well as a township board member who was given late annual forms. HOWEVER i dont believe the commision is perfect either and appointing someone is a very very slippery slope. After all of the meetings ive watched i feel like the commisioners are just as unprofessional and untrustworthy as the perceieved actions of the auditor and that is incredibly worrying. I would take a step back and look inward, we deserve better all around.
Cecily Fong		X	
Dominick Johnson		X	
Cynthia Bosworth		X	
Darla Roggenbuck		X	the position should be spilt into 2 positions county admin and auditor. county admin can be appointed and supervise the finance department. anyone that is appointed should have a minimum of 10 years in state or local government with work experience in doing day to day duties. just because you have supervision experience doesnt mean you know how things work. a cpa is not always the most qualified as there are very few with governmental accounting experience. for profit business experience is not the same as governmental. county government is not able to take risks especially with state and federal funds with investing. the way that this has been handled is very unprofessional from all parties. the people have voted years ago to keep as is. just because u dont get along doesnt mean you can ignore the vote of the people. if a switch is wanted a vote should be taken of the people and ALL facts should be disclosed on how the department would organized and clear duties described and disclosed.
Dustin Grant		X	
Nichole Grant		X	
Nathan Jangula		X	
John Risch	X		Long overdue

First and Last Name	Y	N	Comments
Howard Burns		X	No. It needs to stay an elected office. Change the requirements when the current auditor leaves office. At this time, maybe more oversight of the office is warranted. Offer the current auditor training.
GAYLA JOHNSON		X	BOTH THESE POSITIION SHOULD BE SEPARATE AS WELL. COMMISSIONERS NEED TO RESIGNED. WHERE ARE THE CHECKS AND BALANCES. SOUNDS LIKE, NONE EVER. STARTS AT THE TOP. HR SHOULD KNOW WHO GETS W9'S, THAT IS THEIR DEPARTMENT, GO TO IRS WEBSITE TO FIND OUT IF IN DOUBT. THIS ISSUE IS MORE PERSONAL THAN ANY THING ELSE.
Cathy Phelps		X	The council is corrupted as is and allowing them to appoint an official allows for further corruption! There needs to be more oversight
Robert Ross		X	I think the office of Auditor/Treasurer should remain an elective office.
Jennifer Bennett		X	I don't understand the benefit/value of this change and the information on here was vague. Not fully opposed but just would like to know why it is necessary/beneficial.
John Weber		X	This position is elected by the citizens. Let the residents decide whether change is needed. The residents should vote whether to make this appointed or continue to be elected . It should not be left to the sole decision of the commission.
Ken Makedonski	X		I was against it at first but just seeing his behavior at the Sterling meeting changed my mind. At least if it was appointed you could fire him or whoever comes next if they're not doing their job
Donna Shelton		X	I agree that the current auditor needs to be gone, but believe the correct thing to do is let the people vote , continue to have it be an elected position.
Richard Fisk	X		The current auditor is unqualified for the position:
Daniel Jib		X	Chair Bittner is the issue, king, dictator & controller. Its evident that some of past hires in the office of finance, accounting are as well questionable with exp.
Susan McLean	X		The office should be split. The treasurer should be a stand alone office. Can be hired by the commission. Auditor should be separate office whose duty is strictly for overseeing the money and nothing more.
Barbara Knutson		X	I am really torn on this item. I thought I would never willingly give up a vote and I am still not good with that. However, the treasurer and auditor should never have been merged in my opinion. There are no checks and balances. I feel our county cannot survive two more years of what is currently going on. I feel it is imperative that the information that is being put together would be available before the final hearing. Standing by, it looks like this business of being appointed or elected only makes it look like we are doing something. The problems remain. Still a lot of unanswered questions,
Shane Carroll		X	The citizens of Burleigh County voted to keep the office of the auditor an elected office. It needs to remain that way. Perhaps the auditor and the treasurer should be separated, making the treasurer an appointed position. It appears the commissioners and the auditor are in some kind of pissing match and it's making you all look like fools. The people of Burleigh County deserve better than what we are getting now. I suggest you figure this out and concentrate on real issues, such as road maintenance or lack there of.
Susan LeBlanc		X	
Kevin Fischer		X	
Shaun Werle	X		I have an accounting degree and have been several different types of an auditor for the last 25+ years. Governmental accounting is only getting more complicated unfortunately. Anyone dealing with any type of financial records needs to have some type of experience and understanding of and in business. The Elections Auditor could be an elected position but the Treasurer should for sure be appointed.
Jason Grueneich	X		
Geraldine Taylor		X	I think we have been misled for a long time & we have lost the trust of the commissioners so we deserve to elect a candidate of our choice
Jeff Eslinger	X		By making the position appointed, you can reach beyond the borders of our county and hire a qualified person, for example someone who grew up here and wants to move back home. As an elected position, that person would have to move here first, then run for the office, risking not getting elected. There should also be some minimum requirements related to the finance and investing part of the job.
Shelli Langerud		X	Let the public vote for the office of county auditor
Timothy Langerud		X	I believe it should be the right of the people whether they are right or wrong.

First and Last Name	Y	N	Comments
Guy Van Sickle	X		
Mary Van Sickle	X		
Christopher Hanson		X	<p>I will preface this by saying that I am aware that Mark Splonskowski is a bit of a lightning rod and that he probably attract some criticism from his actions. I personal thought it was arrogant for him to speak derisively regarding the salary that he is earning. \$112k per year is a respectable salary and most accountants that I know would agree.</p> <p>However, I think that Burleigh County has MUCH bigger issues that mostly predate the current auditor's election. And my sense is that you, as commissioners have fostered the creation of cliques where you need to go along to get along and if someone doesn't do that, those people are attacked. Two examples. 1. Julie Lawyer's attack on Mark's text as violating federal law- My sense of Ms. Lawyer is that she does a poor job in her position and intersperses herself into issues that she shouldn't. To attempt to accuse Mark of violating federal law was horrific and an egregious overstep. My sense is that she's at the center of a lot of the issues that are going on. 2. The issues with not issuing W-2s or 1099s to temp workers is unfathomable as a former Controller for a company. That should have been part of your HR onboarding process. So for the HR Manager to accuse the auditor of attempting to break the law when this was an issue that predated Mark's election is essentially attempting to accuse him of their own failures.</p> <p>Despite my issues with some of the things Mark says and does, I think he takes his position seriously. It's much like ND State Auditor Gallion that attracted the attention and ire from various parties. Their methods aren't always ideal, but their independence and willingness to call BS on things is 100% necessary.</p> <p>The bottom line is that it's clear that the County is a very dysfunctional organization and until and unless you put that in order you should take NO FURTHER actions regarding changing this position to an appointed position. I think if you proceed with this that each and every one of you will be looking for a new part-time job.</p>
Marvin abraham		X	<p>It is not right to take away our right to vote.</p> <p>Just do the right thing</p> <p>The fact that only 14 counties of the 53 have appointed auditors tells me something. Just do the right thing</p>
Tom Gerhardt	X		
Quinn Uhlman	X		
Brenda Mack	X		I strongly agree with the Auditor/Treasurer position being appointed. The candidates need to go through a vetting process to insure the position is filled with a qualified individual. There is simply no way the county commissioners can do their job effectively if they are not getting the correct information reported back to them.
Ruby Altringer		X	<p>I believe "the good-ol'-boy scenario" will prevail if it becomes an appointed office.</p> <p>Also, I want to have the opportunity to help select ALL positions that have the power to dictate community matters.</p>
Jacob Langerud		X	I feel this is a grave over reach of power for the commission to attempt to remove the auditor from an elected position. Well I have my own personal opinions about the current auditor, the position of the county auditor is to hold the commission accountable to their actions. They are meant to work together not have the auditor work under/report to the commission.
Abby Langerud		X	I believe because the auditor is currently an elected position it should not be left up to the commission to take that position from the people.
Laurie Brackett		X	<p>Dear Sirs:</p> <p>I co-own a house in Bismarck with my son at 412 E. Central Ave. which is why I am responding to this survey. I think taking this office away from the people to vote for is nothing but a power grab for the commission to place their own crony in position for less oversight in what the commission does.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>

First and Last Name	Y	N	Comments
Jan Wangler		X	It boggles the mind that that at this point, the commissioners cannot see that the people do not want to remove their one checks and balances of the commission by making the auditor an appointed position, and appointed by the commission to boot. The auditor is the people's last point of redress with the commission and we don't want another of our abilities to watch over our other elected leaders removed from us! Since the people elected the current Auditor/Treasurer and have the right to recall him, why didn't the Commission just lay out a bullet-point list of aggressions and let the people decide if it rose to the level of recall as is our right? The personal jabs about homeschool education and other such things makes the current commission look extremely petty. So long as the Auditor/Treasurer has not done anything illegal, there is no way for you to change what is. If the Commission feels the financials are not as they should be, re-separate the two positions of Auditor and Treasurer as first designed! As a Burleigh County resident, I am embarrassed to have watched the personal attacks. The people voted to keep the Auditor/Treasurer as an elected position overwhelmingly at their last opportunity to do so. Just because you point out a few hindsight financial occurrences won't change that because the AUDITOR part is what we are protecting the most. We don't wish to have you hire your own watchdog. Keep the peoples overwhelming desire to keep this an elected position, or move to separate the two positions and keep the Auditor as elected. Thank you.
Richard Bernhardt		X	Good morning, I would like for you to keep it up to the people to elect this position, that's what a democracy is all about. I would say each and every one of you commissioners as well as the auditor are responsible for this mess we are in currently. There's a saying that if your not providing a solution your part of the problem and I believe your all part of the problem and each and every one of you should resign immediately and give Burleigh county a fresh start with new faces on the commission. Look in the mirror and tell yourself you're not part of the issues on this county and stop trying to take our voting rights away from the citizens!!! Thank you.
Myron Mitzel		X	The position of Burleigh County Auditor/Treasurer should remain an elected position for obvious reasons. If qualifications are a concern, redefine the position with the required qualifications for the candidates to run for the position. Just because one person was a problem is not a good reason to change the important election process. The same can happen in an appointed position. It's no different than hiring employees in a business, once in a while one doesn't work out and you have to deal with it. Also, the position should NOT be changed to two positions of an Auditor and a Treasurer. It's not necessary and would add cost to residents that already overtaxed. Thank you.
Tommy Engelhardt		X	The voters of Burleigh County have previously indicated they want this an elected position. The auditor should not be appointed by the people he or she is supposed to audit. Thank you.
Brian Bartz		X	The office of Auditor/Treasurer needs to be separated into two offices. The 20+ year experiment of their combination has not worked for the citizens of Burleigh County.
Brayden R Renner		X	

First and Last Name	Y	N	Comments
Andrea Volochenko		X	<p>I've kept up with most of the meetings and public forums. I have a parent who is far more invested than I and we have had many conversations about this topic. I feel it is important to hear the public's opinion and to take heed. What is concerning in this situation is the possibility for the community to lose their voice by taking the vote out of their hands. As the wages paid to these positions come from our pockets collectively, we should have the right to vote on whom we feel is best suited for the role. Currently, we have a bad vote sitting in that position and I feel that is due solely to the lack of requirements for those wanting to run. We have a personality that comes across as wholly entitled, non-accountable, and rude. I am disappointed in the actions and behaviors of this elected employee of the community for his absolute refusal to take any blame. I have heard from MANY in the office that he is mostly impossible to work with or for and that is unacceptable. In any management position, never mind an ELECTED STATE POSITION, the one in charge must be a leader and not a tyrant. At this time we do not have a strong leader. We do not have someone entirely knowledgeable in the position. We are putting our state at risk not only financially, but legally on a federal level. He has failed not only the public, but his staff by not following federal guidelines regarding W-2s. AND THEN to send out 2025 instead? Wow. We do not have a leader who can stand up publicly and be civil to those against him nor hold himself accountable for shortcomings. We have the exact opposite of humility, loyalty, and respect. We have a pouting child who got in trouble after hiding wrongdoings. We need someone who respects the people and the position.</p> <p>That all aside, the public elected him, he has a term to finish. It would be gratifying to see the board and the elected leader make amends, a plan forward, and start treating each other with respect. In the forward plan I sincerely hope we are able to lay out some basic requirements/prerequisites for the position that directly relate to finance and investments that are able to be implemented prior to the next election and I sincerely hope the Commission sees the importance of a public election as that is how they are fortunate enough to be in their positions. This is not a case where we remove the rights of the people because of one bad seed. This is where we look at the issues and put in place steps and basic requirements to qualify to run for the position.</p>
Alice Zerr		X	<p>Having listened carefully to numerous public meetings (including twice to the 4/7) I submit the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. votings rights are sacred. Punishing voters for commission issues is not the answer.</li> <li>2. I am neither defending Mark nor any currently elected commissioner.</li> <li>3. I do wonder why it took the commissioners choice for (states) attorney to wait so long before advising the commission (and the public) on the options available. It is telling that she said "someone" asked her whereas in the past if a commissioner or the commission asked she would so state. Not providing legal advice in a timely manner is one valid definition of dereliction of duty.</li> <li>4. Dividing the two positions makes sense and is also the simplest balm to egos and pleading residents.</li> </ol> <p>But I caution the commission to obtain advise from a legal expert in financial law to be forewarned of any potential litigation that may be available to one whose elected position is significantly decreased if it results in a decrease in salary.</p> <p>Finally I am equally frustrated with the five of you, the trs/aud - and the stares attorney who left all of you hang out to disgrace when she might of eased tempers and provided a roadmap that was sorely needed in the case. il am sincerely thankful for this online opportunity. Now please return to your normal use if wisdom.</p>
Marilyn Foss	X		Auditor and Treasury matters have increased in svope and complexity. Burleigh County would now be best served by a person who is educated and experienced in government accounting and financial requirements.
Jill Bourgois		X	This is not the first time that an auditor in Burleigh County has been challenged, due to a lack of skills, in trying to meet the requirements of the position. The position requires a high level of skill and the ability to step in without the expectation of being trained by the parallel and subordinate staff. It is time to change the process by which the position is filled to better meet the needs of the county.
Andrea Collin	X		

First and Last Name	Y	N	Comments
Sydney Bauman	X		I agree with the move to redesignate the auditor/treasurer as an appointed position. This is a position responsible for the management of millions of public dollars that is elected during a midterm election when voter turnout is much lower than in presidential election years. There is also no built in assurance that the person elected is qualified to manage millions of dollars. It is not logical to entrust the significant financial responsibilities of this position to a single person who wins in an election where less than half of eligible voters participate, especially when it seems there is little to no oversight for the four years between elections. I am more comfortable entrusting the financial aspects of this position to an appointee rather than a midterm election.
Kacey Heidrich		X	I don't like the idea of taking this option away from the voters. However, given the current situation, I also don't feel like Mark is qualified or knows what he is doing. His lack of professionalism and grand standing is pretty disgusting as a citizen to watch. It's almost as if he is looking or plotting for a big gotcha moment. With that being said, it does appear as if the commission has already made up it's mind. I would support a recall of the auditor but not to appoint the position.
Kevin Stewart		X	Not ready to concede to the plan 2025 to have executive leaders as "yes" people to party leadership. No fascism
wally J. Kahler		X	My thought is to have a seperate Treasurer and Auditor. Let county residents vote in Auditor. Thanks
Megan Milbradt		X	<p>I oppose the resolution to redesignate the Burleigh County Auditor's position from elected to appointed.</p> <p>Elected positions ensure that leaders are directly accountable to the public. Not only do I think it's a conflict of interest to have the Commission appoint the Auditor, I find it inherently wrong that a Commission, whose duty is to act in the best interest of the citizens of Burleigh County, would continually work to take this right away from the public. Just short of 5 years ago, we were asked to vote on a measure to make this change and the result was a resounding no. Now, here we are again, discussing the same thing and I've been trying to understand why. I've listened to all the testimony that's been presented at the Commission meetings and public hearings and the only reason I've heard is that the current Commission doesn't feel that the current Auditor is qualified, and that alone is not a good enough reason for me.</p> <p>The Commission and the Auditor will always be ever changing. We, as citizens, have the opportunity to elect new Commissioners and a new Auditor every four years and, in the event that it can't wait that long, we also have the option of a recall at any time. It's our right to vote for these positions and it's our duty to remove those who hold them if they're not properly performing.</p> <p>I've been incredibly disappointed to see how this has all played out over the past several weeks. The Commission has weaponized this resolution and used it to bring forward personal attacks on the current Auditor, all while reminding us that it's "not about the Auditor." Information about the Auditor's performance has been dangled in front of our faces over the course of 6 or more meetings, which has only led to drama and speculation. It's been highly inappropriate.</p> <p>If the Commission had brought forward this resolution because they thought it was in the best interest of the citizens and the future of Burleigh County, none of these accusations would've had to been brought into the discussion. If the Commission had real concerns about the performance of the current Auditor and how it's affecting us, they would have thoroughly informed us of the details so that we, the people, could act accordingly over an official that we elected. Instead, they've only used it as an excuse to further an agenda that has been overwhelmingly opposed in these public hearings.</p> <p>Continuing on with this resolution, as written, will only further waste time and resources of the County and its citizens. I would like to see the Burleigh County Commission take the feedback that has been received and effectively rescind this resolution or, at the very least, amend it in a way that will actually improve the operation of the Auditor's office, while keeping the position elected.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>
Kathy Feist	X		Burleigh County's budget, operations, and finances are large and complex enough to require more than minimal qualifications for the auditor position. I support making this an appointed position like several other larger counties in North Dakota.

First and Last Name	Y	N	Comments
Brian Bartz		X	Being college-educated, or even a state-licensed individual, does not make a good government official or employee. Those called to govern, whether elected or through bureaucracy, need to have better angels in their nature to have a better chance to fight their demons.
Sherri Neis		X	This position is critical to having someone competent and knowledgeable of even basic accounting and what has gone on since the last election of this position I believe it is imperative that it's split if citizens want to keep the position elected. Because obviously anyone can run to be elected and get elected without any qualifications and if it is continued to be an elected position, splitting the position is the only way to ensure the person running and handling the finances of our county has the ability and qualifications to do so by being hired as treasurer. I am appalled by some of the issues I have learned about that the current auditor has created that any person that had proper qualifications would have known that was not the proper way to do them. I think the citizens of this county need all of this information stated so they understand why you are looking at changing the position. It's been too vague and I think we deserve to know how bad things really have become.
Scott Neis	X		
Annette Jochim	X		This position should be appointed, NOT elected.
GEORGE LEE		X	Separate the two positions. Leave the auditor's position elected and appoint a county treasurer. There is quite a workload in the current combined position. My wife and I own and pay taxes on three properties within Burleigh County. I have tried to keep up with all the special meetings related to this subject and all the infighting that has occurred. My opinion is that Mark Splonskowski is doing a good job! It is my opinion that early on he had requested additional help with all the duties. He directed frustration toward one commission member via an email expressing his frustration. I was one of the recipients of that email and I received it at 12:10 pm on the given day and assumed it was on his lunch hour (not during work hours) and that it was only his personal, not professional opinion. As a result, the entire commission turned on him trying to find fault with everything that they could. And as a result, I have lost respect for all of the commission members. I also listened to Julie Lawry's husband's testimony while smirking the entire time, and listened to Curtis Jundt's rude and baseless attacks against Mark. At an earlier commission meeting when the topic was mishandling the investment of funds - it appeared that the process in question included similar handling by the previous auditor. Mark was doing the same investment of funds as his predecessor and maybe this should have been looked into sooner. Recently, the timing of providing 1099's and W2's for election workers came up. Mark wanted to make sure this was handled correctly and reached out for advice. The election workers probably should have been notified of any delay via email, but I question that the mailings were so late that now workers would need to amend returns, and any of the other exaggerated issues the commissioners brought up. It appeared that there were still weeks and weeks before the 04/15 deadline. I consider Mark to be very qualified for the position he holds and I for one have not appreciated hearing all the commissioner's attacks against him. And I think that I speak for many. I first met Mark many years ago when he personally appraised our home. He didn't cut me any slack then and he most certainly didn't cut me any slack this past year when one of our properties went up in value substantially and his name was listed on the bottom - appraised by Mark Splonskowski. That's OK, the man was just doing his job and I and many others respect him for that! Be careful with all of this. Sometimes the same people who target someone become the targets themselves. Leave this elected position alone and hire a county treasurer to handle the investments and work as/with the financial officer. The county auditor's position has enough of a workload. Thank you for your time.....

First and Last Name	Y	N	Comments
Patrick Hanson		X	<p>Hello honorable chairman and members of the Burleigh county commission.  Thank you for opening up public hearings and listening to the residents of Burleigh county.  My name is Patrick Hanson, I am a lifelong resident in Burleigh county and I live in Bismarck.  I would like to testify in opposition to the proposed change of how the county auditor/treasurer is chosen.  Being that the auditor is currently chosen by the people directly, it looks and feels improper for a government body such as the commission to take away the power to choose from the people, because they are the ones who decide already and should decide if they want to continue or not.  Instead, I think it is more appropriate to let the people decide if they believe they should continue making that choice for themselves or not.  Also, I'm afraid that this proposal if enacted would cause more distrust in our government than there is already, which is not a problem that we want to have right?  Even just the mere consideration of such a proposal to take away the people's ability to appoint without their say so I believe is causing more distrust in our commission.  That is not good for the social fabric of our county/community.  The notion that some public officials can take away people's right to appoint an official willy nilly without permission, whether it is intended or not can come accross as arrogant and disenfranchising people of their right to vote, even if it is technically possible in the charter for the commission to do so.  Burleigh county residents should have the reassurance that their local government is one that will honor their rights and do what is best for them, not disenfranchise them.  If there is any decision to change who appoints/how the auditor is appointed, it should be decided by the people.  The people are currently the ones who have the say, how odd would it be for their say to be taken away by someone else?  I ask, advise and encourage you to please vote no to this proposal.  Thank you, for your public service, to our county, and thank you for taking your time to read this and consider it. I am praying for you all that you have wisdom and clarity in making the right choices.  Best regards to you all! Sincerely, -Patrick Hanson</p>
Courtney Monroe Ryckman	X		