

Candidate support greater than results show



Alyssa Goelzer / The Forum

Fargo Mayor Tim Mahoney thanks his supporters after finding out he was reelected on Tuesday at the Hilton Garden Inn, Fargo.

Chair of Reform Fargosays election not calculated correctly under approval voting

Fargo
Proponents of Fargo's approval voting system say candidates in the city election this week received more support than what the results indicated, and in some cases, a lot more.



Robin Huebner reports

Jed Limke, a software engineer and chairman of Reform Fargo, the group that spearheaded approval voting, said the numbers are not being tabulated the way they're meant to under the system.
With approval voting,

passed by the city in 2018, residents can vote for or "approve of" as many candidates as they wish.
Percentages reported on the North Dakota Secretary of State website give a false, low impression of support, Limke said.
The results would still be the same, with the person with the most votes winning, he said, but the low percentages factor into public perception of the support

each candidate garnered.
The number of votes each candidate received should be divided by the number of people who voted, which is not being done.
Using that formula, Limke said, Fargo Mayor Tim Mahoney actually won reelection with support from more than 64% of voters rather than the 41% figure reported on the state's website.
SUPPORT: Page A8

Electric utilities prep for grid strain

Hotter summer in the offing

By Alex Derosier
The Forum

ST. PAUL — With forecasters predicting a hotter than normal summer, electric utilities and regulators are warning that the coming months could bring the potential of forced blackouts and higher prices for some customers in the mid-western U.S.
Power companies big and small across Minnesota say they are prepared for potential challenges this summer, including the possibility of interruptions after the North American Electric Reliability Corp. and the region's power grid operator warned generation capacity could fall short of demand on the hottest days this summer. Above normal temperatures expected in the Upper Midwest combined with a historic drought will contribute to the strain.
"I'd rather be prepared and not need it, than not be prepared and need it, so that's why we're trying to notify our customers as much in advance," said Vernell Roberts with Detroit Lakes Public Utilities, which serves up to 17,000 customers in the summer. "We're not trying to waive any type of an alarm or anything"
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Chris Flynn / The Forum
Tesla owner Todd Lefor in downtown Fargo on Mon., May 16.

Goodbye to gas!

Is it time to buy an electric vehicle? These owners say 'yes' (with a few caveats)

By Kris Kerzman
The Forum

Fargo
As gas prices climb higher, you might start thinking about a new vehicle, maybe a smaller car with better mileage, an upgrade for lower maintenance costs, or you might be considering scaling down to something like a motorcycle.
An electric vehicle — a car, bike or scooter — might also enter into your calculus. After

all, paying nothing for gas right now seems like a pretty great deal.
We talked to several electric vehicle drivers in the Fargo metro and asked them what they would recommend to someone considering an electric vehicle right now.
These owners generally fit the bill of early adopters, and most were outspoken about the environmental benefits of an EV, so it's not surprising that they all recommend them.

But they are just as frank about the reasons why an electric vehicle might not be right for everyone.
For Daniel Bohmer of Moorhead, driving habits are the biggest factor to consider. He'd been driving a Jaguar I-PACE, one of the first in Minnesota, he claims, and the range between charges just wasn't enough for long road trips.
"Drive 200 miles, charge for two hours, drive 200 miles,

charge for two hours ... you can see how long it takes," Bohmer said. "A trip down to Rochester, Minnesota, instead of five hours, took me eight hours."
Like most of the owners we spoke to, however, Bohmer is quick to point out that if your driving habits mean mostly in-town driving, like daily commuting and running errands, an electric vehicle makes a lot of sense.
"If you primarily drive"
ELECTRIC: Page A6

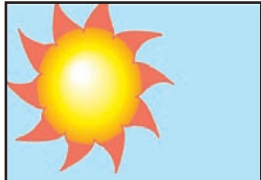
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Today's weather



83°
64°
Sunny
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WF Rural Fire Department fined, barred from 2 bars


By Wendy Reuer
West Fargo Pioneer/
The Forum

WEST FARGO — The West Fargo Rural Fire Department was fined and barred from conducting gaming at two West Fargo bars, which were also suspended from hosting any gaming for one year, after investigators determined they had committed significant violations of state gaming laws.
North Dakota Attorney General Drew Wrigley fined the West Fargo Rural Fire Department \$20,000 with \$5,000 sus-

pending for five years and barred it from conducting gaming activity at the Bar Nine and Bordertown Bar & Grill in West Fargo, effective immediately.
Wrigley also ordered the suspension of gaming at Bar Nine and Bordertown Bar & Grill for one year, effective July 1. The two bars are owned by Nasser Hammami.
Hammami could not be reached for comment Thursday, June 16. A call to West Fargo Rural Fire Department Chief Steve Baron was not returned.
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