

Guide to the Legislative Branch

For the Citizens of North Dakota

January 2026

North Dakota Legislative Branch



North Dakota State Capitol
Bismarck, ND

The Magic of Making Laws

The capitol building is where the magic of making our state laws happens. The laws are everywhere and impact you, even if you don't realize it. If you're driving the highways across North Dakota, you've been subject to a state law: the speed limit. When you pay taxes on a T-shirt at the store, you're paying money to the state because of sales tax set by the state.

The people we elect to create our laws are called state legislators, or state lawmakers. These 141 individuals in our state legislature are citizens. They serve our state part-time to make laws—so they have a learning curve the first time they enter the capitol building.

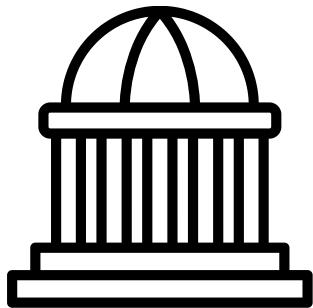
What's in This Guide

This guide will go over what the North Dakota Legislature does, who is in the legislature and how they get there, how a bill becomes a law, and how your idea can become state law. We'll also share resources to help you start following the lawmaking process.

Three Branches of Government

Our state government is modeled after the U.S. government. We have three separate branches of government, and they each have different jobs. A key to our state government is a system of **checks and balances**, where each branch ensures the other branches don't overstep their jobs to become too powerful.

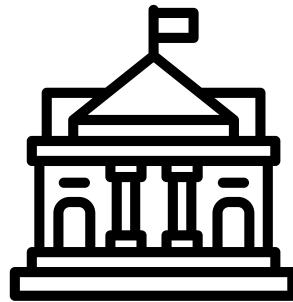
Legislative



The **Legislative Branch** makes our laws and approves our state budget. It's composed of 141 state lawmakers. There's a House and a Senate, just like the U.S. Congress. These lawmakers are elected by the people of North Dakota in their district to represent their area of the state.

Executive

The **Executive Branch** carries out the laws that the Legislative Branch sets. The Governor is like the president of North Dakota. The Governor leads our state government: the departments, agencies, and employees that work there.



Judicial



The **Judicial Branch** is key to interpreting state laws and ensuring our laws follow our state constitution. We even have a North Dakota Supreme Court and an entire court system, including district courts and municipal (city) courts.

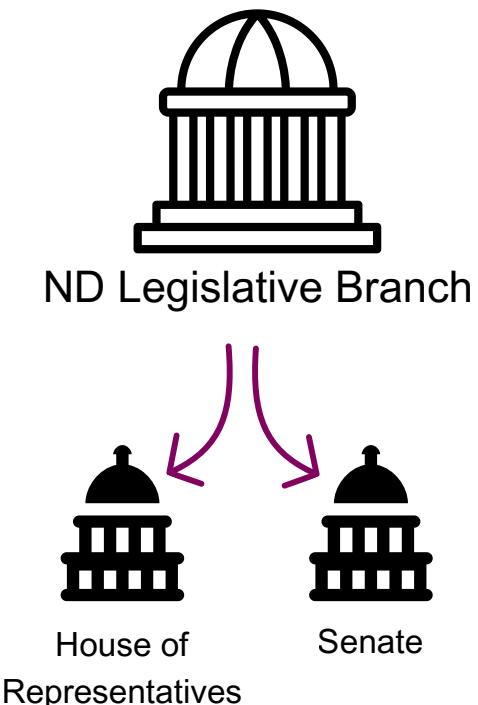
North Dakota Legislature

Our focus in this guide is the legislative branch of the North Dakota government. “Legislative” means law-making, and the Legislature is the group of people making laws for the state.

Crafting our state laws is an important job. If there’s a problem, it can be fixed with state laws. Legislators can also set aside funding to help with an issue in our state.

For example: Let’s say our rural grocery stores have been closing, and people need to drive an hour or more for groceries. Lawmakers can create a law to provide grants to rural stores to help them stay open or fund a distribution facility to get food to people who need it.

These examples aren’t hypothetical. In 2025, the Legislature created these laws and set aside money to support our rural food system. They saw a need and worked to fill the gap for rural North Dakotans.



Inside the State Capitol Building in Bismarck

Legislative Session

The main job of the legislature is to make our state laws. Part of this work also involves setting our state budget, as many laws and state programs need funding.

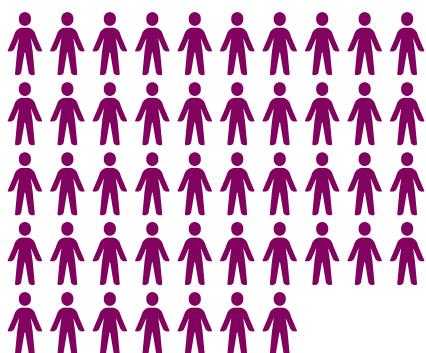
When does this lawmaking work happen? The legislature meets for a **legislative session** every two years at the Bismarck State Capitol Building.

They have 80 days available to meet in session, which means they start in January of odd-numbered years and usually end by early May.

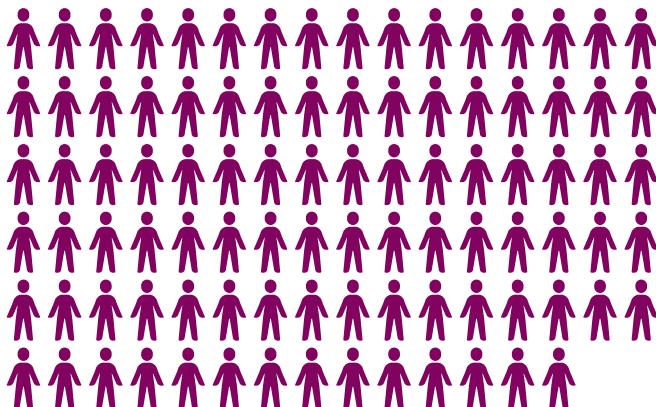
Who's in the Legislature

We have 141 North Dakotans elected by voters to represent them in the legislature, to make laws and set our state budget.

47 Senators



94 Representatives

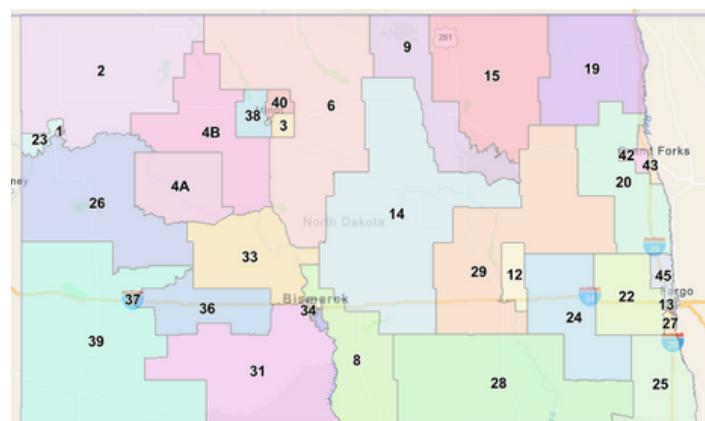


How They Get There

We have 47 legislative districts, and voters in each district elect 2 representatives and 1 senator.

State legislators are elected to 4-year terms with a limit of 2 terms in each of the chambers—House and Senate.

Legislative districts are based on population, so the district lines change after each US Census, when people are counted every 10 years.



2025-2032 ND Legislative Districts, ndlegis.gov

North Dakota Subdistricts

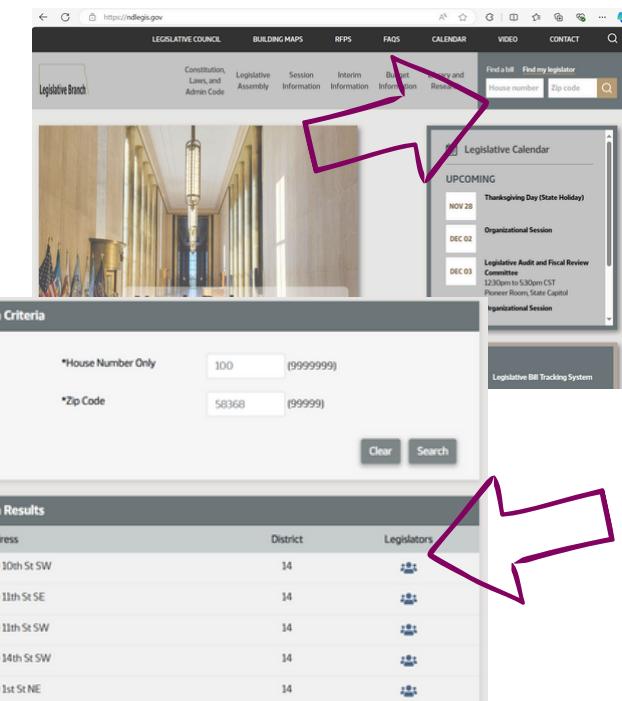
After the last US Census, the state legislature created two House subdistricts in tribal areas: Districts 4a/4b and 9a/9b. Each subdistrict elects only one representative. The subdistricts were created in an attempt to comply with the Voting Rights Act.

Find Your Legislators

The North Dakota Legislative Branch website is a treasure trove of information, including a lookup to find your district and the legislators who represent your district.

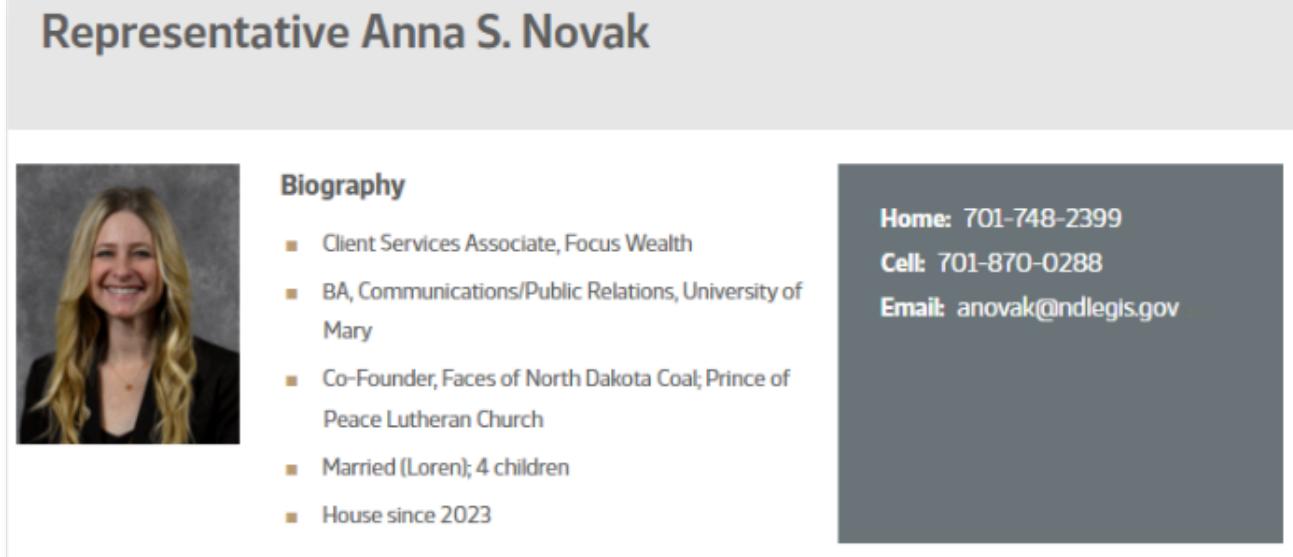
Head to ndlegis.gov, and enter your zip code at the top right.

On the next screen, click on the icon next to your address to see your district and your legislators. You can click on their photos to learn more about them.



The screenshot shows the North Dakota Legislative Branch website. At the top, there are navigation links for the Legislative Council, Building Maps, RPPS, FAQs, Calendar, Video, and Contact. A search bar is located at the top right. Below the navigation, there's a banner image of a hallway with flags. To the right of the banner is a sidebar with an 'UPCOMING' section listing events like Thanksgiving Day (State Holiday) and the Legislative Audit and Fiscal Review Committee. The main content area is titled 'Search Criteria' and contains fields for 'House Number Only' (100) and 'Zip Code' (58368). Below this is a 'Search' button. The 'Search Results' table has columns for 'Address', 'District', and 'Legislators'. The table lists five addresses, all in District 14, with small icons representing the legislators. A purple arrow points from the 'Find my legislator' link in the top right to the search results table. Another purple arrow points from the 'Legislators' column in the table to the representative profile for Anna S. Novak.

Get to Know Your Legislators



Representative Anna S. Novak



Biography

- Client Services Associate, Focus Wealth
- BA, Communications/Public Relations, University of Mary
- Co-Founder, Faces of North Dakota Coal; Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
- Married (Loren); 4 children
- House since 2023

Home: 701-748-2399
Cell: 701-870-0288
Email: anovak@ndlegis.gov

Here is an example of what you'll see when you click on your legislator's photo. It's a great way to learn about their background. Most importantly, you can save their email address and phone number if you'd like to contact them about a bill or an issue you care about.

How a Bill Becomes a Law

Now that you know more about the legislature and how legislators are elected, you're ready to learn about the legislature's main task: making laws.

What is a bill?

The basis for making laws is something called a bill. Bills are state laws in the making.

Bills create, amend, or repeal a law. Approved bills become law, and when they do, they're added to the North Dakota Century Code, the compilation of our laws.

Another way to describe a bill is "an idea for a law," and legislators have lots of ideas. **Legislators submit around 1,000 bills each legislative session.**

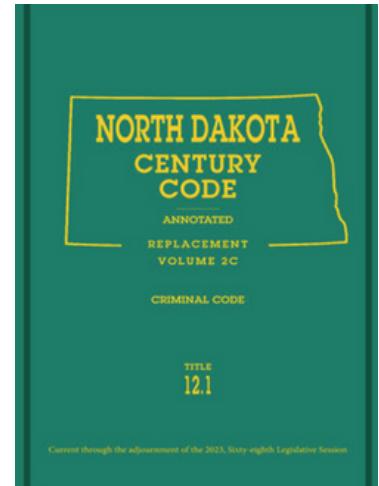


Image from OverDrive online.
North Dakota Century Code
Annotated (2023)

This is a bill:

23.0518.01000

Sixty-eighth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

HOUSE BILL NO. 1424

Introduced by

Representatives Conmy, Boschee, Dakane, Dobervich, Ista, Wagner

Senators Hogan, Piepkorn

Bill Number

Bill Sponsors &
Co-sponsors

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact subsection 1 of section 16.1-08.1-03.2, subsection 1 of section 16.1-11-06, section 16.1-11-09, subsection 1 of section 16.1-11-11, and subsection 1 of section 16.1-11-16 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to a candidate's contact information and the form of a nominating petition and a certificate of endorsement.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

6 SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Subsection 1 of section 16.1-08.1-03.2 of the North Dakota

7 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

8 1. A political committee as defined in section 16.1-08.1-01 shall register its name and contact information, mailing address, telephone number, and nongovernment issued electronic mail address, its agent's name and contact information, mailing address, telephone number, and nongovernment issued electronic mail address, and a

Description of the
bill and what part
of state law it
would change

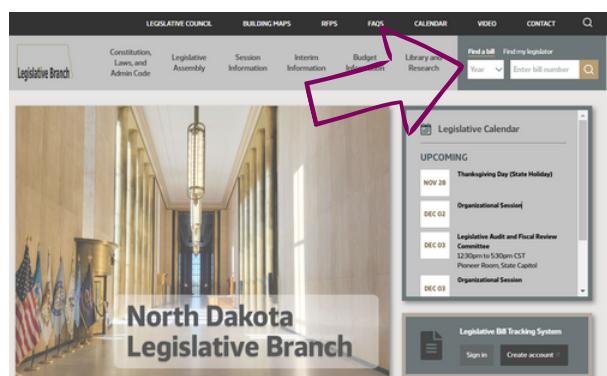
Proposed
change of law

How a Bill Becomes a Law

Step 1: Bill Introduced in Session

A bill is submitted (filed) by a state legislator, or a state agency, board, or commission. The bill clerk assigns it a number, and the bill is assigned to a committee based on the topic area.

Bills are given a 4-digit number to make them easier to track and organize. Bills filed in the House are “House Bill,” or HB, and the numbers start at 1001. Bills filed in the Senate are “Senate Bills,” or SB, and start at 2001.



To find a bill during the legislative session, go to the state legislative website: ndlegis.gov. Enter the 4-digit bill number.

Bills keep this same number the entire legislative session, so if you’re tracking a bill, keep this number handy.

What are committees?

Committees are where bills go after they are filed and given a number. A legislative committee is where most of the law-making work happens during the legislative session

A committee is a small group of legislators who evaluate a bill and make recommendations to the whole chamber (the House or the Senate).



House Political Subdivisions Committee discussing HB 1424, January 2023, ndlegis.gov

For example, the Senate Education Committee will discuss a bill related to education, make a recommendation, and then it will be sent to the Senate floor for debate and a vote. The recommendation can be helpful for legislators who are not on the committee.

How a Bill Becomes a Law

Step 2: Committee Hearing

A committee hearing is when committee members get to hear directly from the public about the bill. Is this bill good for North Dakota? Is there anything that should be changed in the bill before they vote on it?

Legislators are citizens and not experts on every topic that comes to them. They need input from everyone—organizations, businesses, and North Dakotans from all walks of life—to know if the bill is a good idea for state law.

The Public Hearing

The Committee Chair schedules a public hearing on a bill. At the scheduled time, the hearing begins. Here's how it usually goes:

1. The Bill Sponsor introduces the bill.
2. The Chair opens testimony in support of the bill.
3. The Chair opens testimony in opposition.
4. The Chair calls for neutral testimony.
5. The Chair closes the public hearing.

“Testimony” is a public comment on the bill. Anyone can give testimony. **During the legislative session, the hearing is your time to give public input on a bill.**



You can submit just a written testimony or sign up to give virtual or in-person testimony. Be sure to submit a written testimony, no matter how you decide to testify.



A bill sponsor, a legislator, explains their bill to the committee and why members of the committee should support the bill.

Watch a Committee Hearing

The best way to understand how a committee hearing works is to watch one in action. Scan the QR code to watch a hearing on [House Bill 1186](#), which passed in 2025 and designated the Knife River flint as our official state rock.



Photo: Rep. Liz Conmy speaking on House Bill 1424, January 2023, [ndlegis.gov](#)

How a Bill Becomes a Law

Step 3: Committee Work

After committee members have heard the background on the bill and testimony for or against the bill, it's time to get to work. "Committee work" is where the committee meets to discuss the bill and take action.

For most bills, the committee votes to recommend changes, or "amendments" to the bill. Sometimes, it's as simple as changing a few words to clarify the bill. Other times, it's recommending major changes due to public input or the bill's complexity.



Example: Bell-to-Bell Cell Phone Ban

In the 2025 legislative session, a bill was filed to ban cell phone use by students in public schools (House Bill 1160). Based on public feedback, the bill's sponsor, Rep. Jim Jonas, modified the bill to add exemptions for phones used as medical devices. This is why public input is important for the law-making process: to improve the idea of the bill.

Committee Takes Action

After the committee has discussed the bill, it makes a recommendation. These are the usual actions committee members vote on: **Amend, Do Pass, Do Not Pass, or move it out of committee "Without Recommendation."** They can also refer the bill to another committee—almost always to the appropriations (funding) committee

After the bill receives a recommendation from the committee, it's scheduled for a vote by the whole chamber, either the House or the Senate, whichever chamber the bill is currently being considered in.

Fun Fact:

North Dakota and New Hampshire are the only states where all bills get both a committee hearing and a floor vote. All other states have ways for the committee to stop the bill from moving forward to a floor vote.

How a Bill Becomes a Law

Step 4: Floor Debate and Vote

The bill goes from the committee to a scheduled vote on the floor of the chamber.

Here's how it works:

- 1 **A committee member presents the bill.** They explain the bill's background and why their committee gave it the recommendation they did.
- 2 **Floor debate opens.** The Speaker of the House or the Senate President (depending on which chamber the bill is in) calls for debate.
- 3 **Lawmakers discuss the bill.** Legislators can ask questions or share their own comments on the bill. There are rules for the debate, such as how long each person can speak, so it proceeds in an orderly manner.
- 4 **Lawmakers vote on the bill.** When the debate closes, members in that chamber vote on the bill, which is called a "floor vote." A bill requires at least a majority vote of the members elected to that chamber to pass.
 - In the Senate, a bill needs at least 24 yes votes to pass.
 - In the House, a bill needs at least 48 yes votes to pass.
- 5 **Votes are tallied.** If the bill does not get the number of yes votes needed to pass, it's defeated, and its journey through the legislative process ends. If it gets enough votes to pass, it moves forward.

Is the bill really done when it's defeated?

This may seem like a funny question, but a bill can indeed be revived after being defeated on the floor. There are rules surrounding it, such as a member who didn't vote on the bill the first time can request that it be reconsidered. Even then, a majority of members in that chamber would need to say yes to reconsider the bill.

The language of the bill can also be added to another bill, so an idea for a state law can resurface again during the legislative session.

How a Bill Becomes a Law

Step 5: Second Chamber

If the bill passes in the first chamber, it “crosses over” to the other chamber to go through the same process again.

If the bill passes in the House, it will cross over to the Senate, get assigned to a Senate committee, get a public hearing, committee work, and then a floor vote in the Senate. Alternatively, if the bill passes the Senate first, then it goes over to the House to go through that process.

**what is
crossover?**
Senate → Senate
House → House



Governor Kelly Armstrong having fun signing a bill that allows more window tint in vehicles.

Photo: Governor Armstrong's Facebook Page, March 21, 2025

Step 6: The Governor

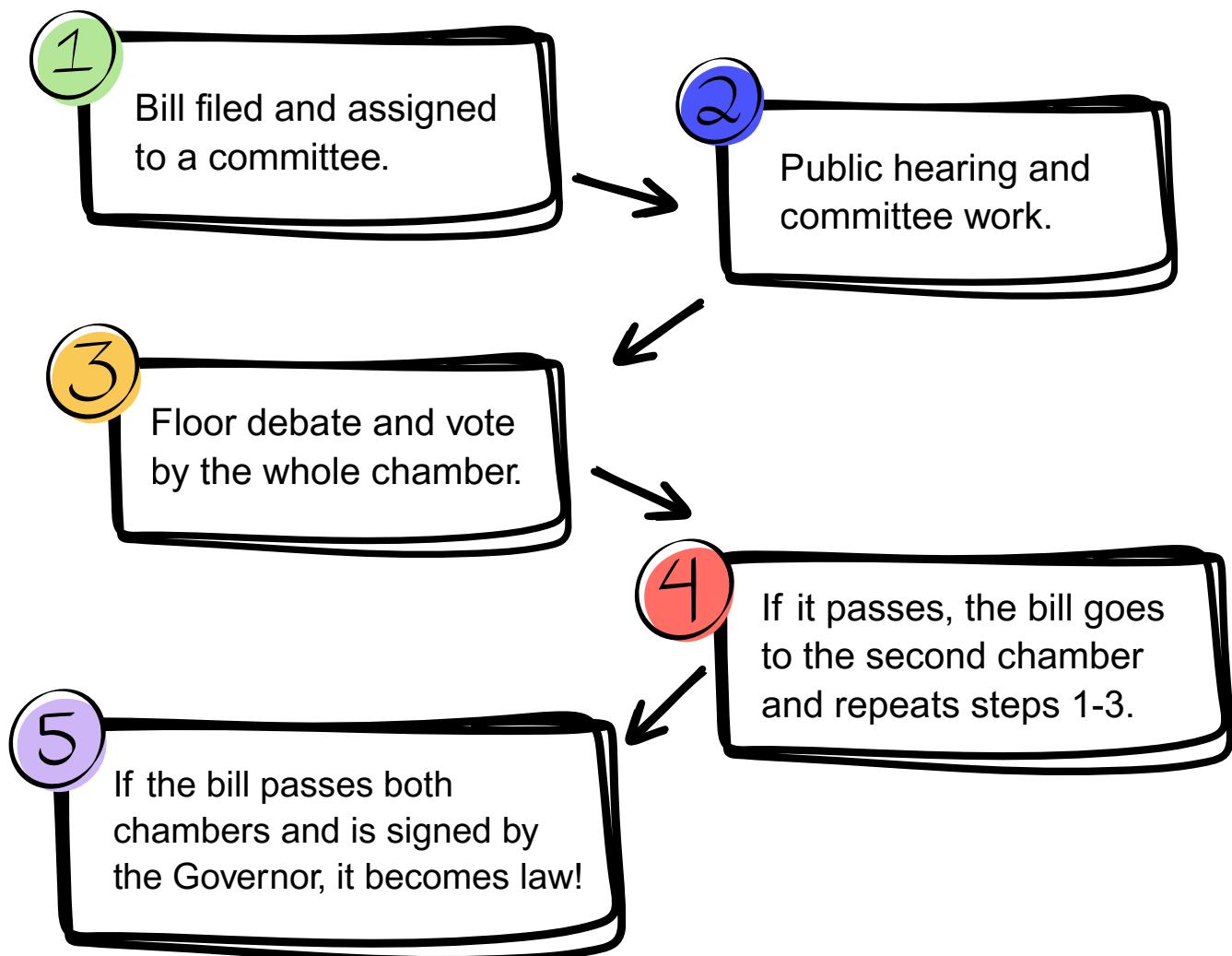
If the bill passes with a majority vote in each chamber—both the House and the Senate—the bill heads to the North Dakota Governor to take action. The Governor has a few options:

- The Governor can sign the bill into law.
- The Governor can veto the bill, which is a formal way of saying no to the bill. The bill is then sent back to the legislature, which can override the veto with a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority vote in both chambers.
- If it's a funding (appropriations) bill, the Governor can veto items from the bill.
- The Governor can decide not to sign or veto the bill, and after a certain number of days, the bill becomes law.

Did you know? The ND Secretary of State plays a key role. If the Governor signs a bill, the Secretary of State also must sign to attest to the Governor's signature. All signed bills are then filed with the Office of the Secretary of State.

How a Bill Becomes a Law

Quick Review:



This is the simplest path for a bill to become a law. There are usually many detours along the way. For example, if a certain amount of funding is needed for the bill, it's referred to the appropriations committee (the funding committee), and then the committee's funding recommendation gets a floor vote in that chamber.

Although this guide isn't all-encompassing, it will help you get started following along during the lawmaking process, so you can make your voice heard on issues you care about. The rest of it, you'll learn along the way.

How a Bill Becomes a Law

Do you have an idea for a law?

Ideas for laws come from North Dakotans just like you. You have the power to change our laws to make the state a better place. State legislators need different perspectives when they make state laws, and you can help.

Reach out to your legislators to share your ideas and issues you care about!

Beulah Student Changes State Law

A recent graduate of Beulah High School, Zofia Dostal, worked with Rep. Anna Novak from District 33 to craft a bill requiring school districts to excuse students from school to cast a ballot. [House Bill 1178](#) passed in the 2025 legislative session.

Congrats, Zofia, on your idea becoming law in North Dakota!



Zofia Dostal testifying virtually on House Bill 1178 to the Senate Education Committee in March 2025, ndlegis.gov

Excerpt from Zofia Dostal's Testimony:

By providing students the time they need to vote, we remove barriers that currently prevent many young people from exercising their constitutional right . . . I urge you to support this bill, as it will strengthen our democracy by empowering young voters and ensuring that no voice is left unheard.

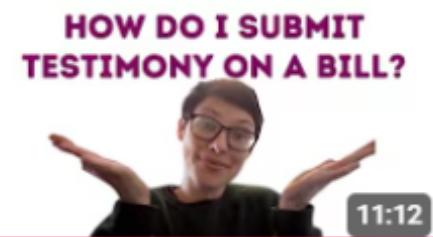
Resources for Legislative Session

Get ready for the next legislative session with the League of Women Voters' video resources at youtube.com/@lwvnd, or scan a QR code below.



How do I track a bill in North Dakota? ::

How to track a bill on the ND Legislative Branch website



How to Submit Testimony on a Bill in North Dakota ::

How to write and submit testimony on a bill



How to Watch a Bill Hearing in North Dakota ::

How to watch a bill hearing and floor votes



You don't have to wait until the legislative session to get started! Reach out to your state legislators today and introduce yourself. Tell them about an issue you care about in your community. It could become an idea for state law.

Bonus Content

Legislative Branch



In This Section

Now that you have the basics of the lawmaking process, we'll cover a few more areas helpful for understanding the Legislative branch:

- What Happens Between Legislative Sessions
- Legislative Staff
- Legislative Oversight
- The State Budget
- State Constitution and Statutes



Great resource: The Legislative Council's newsletter:
ndlegis.gov/council-newsletter

Thank You, Legislators

May 19th is Celebrate Your Elected Officials Day, a time to celebrate your elected representatives, which include state legislators. Ways to celebrate:

- Send them a thank you letter or email.
- Call them to tell them you appreciate them.
- Write a letter to the editor thanking them for their hard work.

North Dakota lawmakers serve part-time in their role, but it can be a full-time job throughout the year. They answer emails and phone calls, take meetings with constituents, research issues, work long days at the Capitol during the session, and much more. A thank you goes a long way in encouraging them in their work.

Between Legislative Sessions

The Interim

The state legislature meets in session every two years to make our laws. There's a year and a half in between those regular sessions, so our lawmakers get that time off, right? Nope! Our state lawmakers are still busy during this time in between sessions, called the "interim."

The interim is essential to the legislative process. During each legislative session, state legislators identify issues they want to study in-depth before they make or change laws. Interim committees are formed to conduct these studies in between sessions.

Interim Committees
Administrative Rules Committee
Advanced Nuclear Energy Committee
Agriculture and Water Management Committee
Budget Section
Budget Section - Education and Environment Division
Budget Section - Government Operations Division
Budget Section - Human Resources Division
Budget Section - Leadership Division
Child Custody Review Task Force
Education Committee
Emergency Response Services Committee
Employee Benefits Programs Committee
Energy Development and Transmission Committee

Above are some of the more than 30 interim committees for 2025–26. Find more at ndlegis.gov.

Legislative Management

At the end of each legislative session, the Legislative Management Committee is formed. The committee is composed of 17 legislators and has 3 main roles:

- Decide which studies will be completed before the next legislative session.
- Appoint lawmakers to interim committees.
- Accept any reports during the interim.

The committee also has the power to reconvene the legislature if something arises in the interim. If they do, it's called a reconvened session. If the Governor calls for a session, it's called a special session.

Lawmaking in the Interim: The Legislature can meet in session no more than 80 days every 2 years. They use most of these days during the regular legislative session, but they usually reserve a few days in case they need to call a reconvened session during the interim. The Governor may also call the legislature back into session on extraordinary occasions, which doesn't count toward the 80-day limit.

Legislative Council

Staff for the Legislature

Legislators are citizens and can't do the work of lawmaking alone. The Legislative Council is the legislative staff that provides services to lawmakers, state agencies, and the public. They help legislators draft bills, provide legal counsel on legislative matters to legislators, respond to questions from the public, and much more.

If you have a question about the legislative process, you can email the Legislative Council at lcouncil@ndlegis.gov. Learn more at ndlegis.gov/legislative-council.

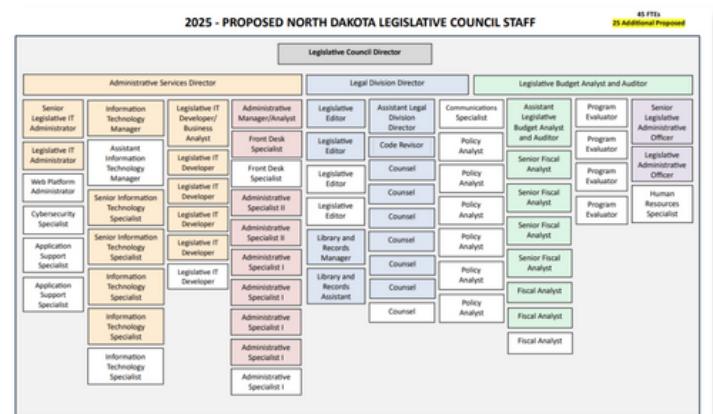
Imagine You're a New Legislator

You just got elected as a state legislator. You're brand new to the process. What would you need help with? The legislative staff can answer your questions, assist you in drafting bills, and provide computer services. Staff are essential for the legislative branch because of the support they provide.

Staffing Increase Proposed

In 2025, the Legislative Council proposed adding additional staff to help with their workload. For example, a boost in staff could help legislators better understand the effects of the policies and budget they pass.

Legislative staff is essential as North Dakota voters recently passed term limits for legislators. Staffing is needed to ensure that new legislators are trained and that legislative knowledge is carried forward.



The Legislative Council's proposed 2025 organizational chart. They requested 25 additional staff members to support their work. Find the chart at ndlegis.gov.

Legislative Oversight



Checks and Balances

North Dakota has three separate branches of government: Legislative, Executive, and Judicial. Having three branches with separate powers is important for an accountable and stable government. Each branch has special powers that can “check” another branch to balance it out. **These checks keep any one branch from becoming too powerful.**

Oversight

An important job of the state legislature that's often overlooked is its oversight over the Executive Branch. Lawmakers pass policies and the budget, but they don't know if a new program or funding is working unless they review how it's being implemented.

If you watch the legislative session, you'll see state employees from various agencies come before lawmakers to share about their work, ask for more staff, and request budget and policies. They are the implementation experts on the laws.

State legislators and legislative staff play a critical role in evaluating the work of state agencies during the interim. It's the duty of lawmakers to ensure that they create policies and spend money effectively with North Dakota citizens in mind.

Executive Branch

The state needs thousands of staff to implement all the programs, laws, and budget that lawmakers pass.

18,000+ State Employees

70+ State Agencies

Learn more from the [Office of Management and Budget](#).

Task Force on Government Efficiency

In 2025, the state legislature established a task force to look for efficiencies in state government. The ten-member group will receive presentations and reports from state agencies and then submit a report before the 2027 legislative session, outlining potential cost savings and proposed legislation. Learn more at ndlegis.gov.

State Budget

Balancing the Budget



In our state budget, there are essentials to pay for, like highways, education, and staff salaries. The legislative branch sets the budget for these essentials and decides on additional programs to serve North Dakotans. **The budget reveals the state legislature's priorities.**

There are many more ways the budget is important: it funds public services, shapes the quality of life for North Dakotans, and reflects the economic health of our state. You can also think of the budget as a framework for public spending and the amount of taxes to be collected.

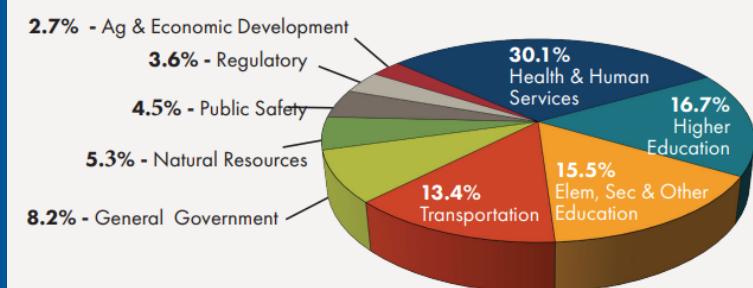
By law, **North Dakota is required to have a balanced state budget**, so our legislators are tasked with ensuring we don't spend more than we take in.

2025–27 North Dakota Budget: \$20,270,000,000

The legislature's job is to approve the spending of funds for the state budget. "Appropriation" is the action taken by the legislature to authorize the spending of public funds for a specific purpose.

Learn more from the [Office of Management and Budget](#) and the [Legislative Website](#).

Legislative Appropriations by Category



[OMB's 2025-27 Budget Highlights](#)

State Spending Accounts

General Fund: Where most taxes are deposited and used to run our government.

Special Funds: Designated for specific uses, such as maintaining our highways.

Federal Funds: Financial assistance to our state from the federal government.

You may have heard about a special fund called the [Legacy Fund](#), where a percentage of taxes on petroleum production and extraction are deposited monthly.

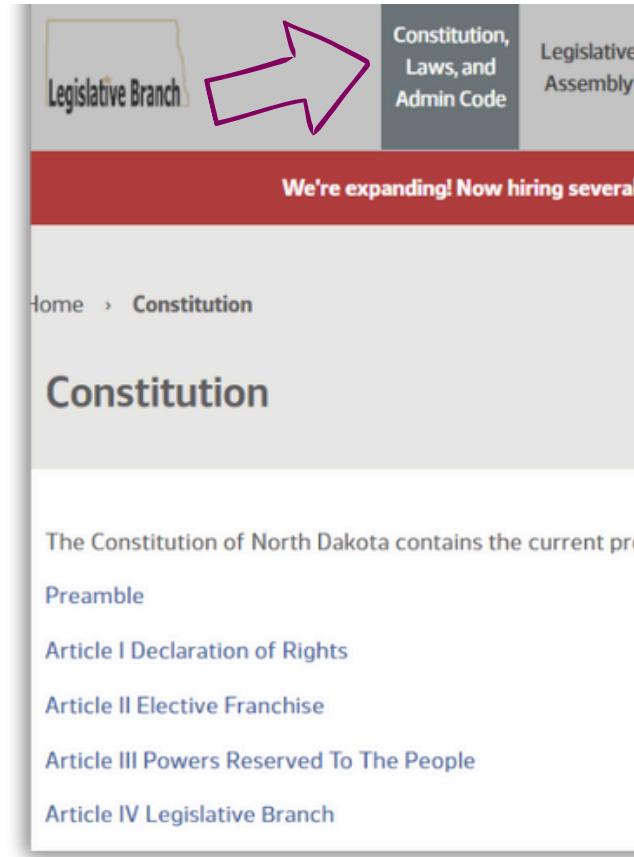
State Constitution and Statutes

North Dakota Constitution

Just like the U.S. Government, North Dakota has a constitution, which was established in 1889, about a month before North Dakota became the 39th state.

The constitution is our state's master document, laying out the foundational principles of our government and the rule of law. It outlines the rights of citizens and gives the government the power to protect those rights.

Our constitution also lays out the state's three branches of government and the checks and balances that prevent any one of those branches from wielding too much power.



The screenshot shows a website layout for the North Dakota Legislative Branch. At the top, there is a navigation bar with a purple arrow pointing right. The text "Legislative Branch" is on the left, and "Constitution, Laws, and Admin Code" is on the right. Below the navigation bar, a red banner says "We're expanding! Now hiring several". The main content area has a grey header "Constitution". Below the header, there is a list of links: "Preamble", "Article I Declaration of Rights", "Article II Elective Franchise", "Article III Powers Reserved To The People", and "Article IV Legislative Branch".

Read our constitution and statutes at ndlegis.gov

North Dakota Statutes

While our state constitution establishes the structure of our government and lists citizens' fundamental rights, state statutes are specific laws passed by the North Dakota Legislature to govern within the framework of our constitution.

One way to distinguish the two is that the state constitution is broad and foundational, while state statutes are narrower and more specific.

Statutes are much easier to change than the constitution. While our constitution can only be amended by a majority vote of the people of North Dakota, hundreds of bills are passed each legislative session that change the statutes listed in the North Dakota Century Code.



GLOSSARY OF TERMS

North Dakota Legislature

- **Bill:** A proposed law that needs to be approved by a majority vote of the members in the House and Senate to become law. Simply, a bill is an idea for a law.
- **Chamber:** The "houses" of state government that deliberate separately. North Dakota has two chambers: the House of Representatives and the Senate.
- **Constituents:** You! The people in a district that a state legislator represents.
- **Legislation:** A law, or statute, created by the legislative branch of government. The North Dakota Century Code, or N.D.C.C., contains our state laws.
- **Legislative Committee:** A small group of legislators in a chamber who deal with bills on certain issues, such as transportation, education, or agriculture. During the legislative session, committees hold hearings where the public can provide testimony in support of, in opposition to, or offer neutral testimony on a bill.
- **Legislative Council:** The staff available to assist legislators. They are attorneys, accountants, researchers, and other personnel who are hired to serve on a nonpartisan basis.
- **Legislative Districts:** Areas where state representatives and senators are elected from. North Dakota has 47 districts with about 16,000 people in each. After each US Census, the districts are redrawn to account for population changes, a process known as redistricting.



GLOSSARY OF TERMS

North Dakota Legislature

- **Legislative Session:** When state legislators meet to set our state budget and create or change our state laws. North Dakota's regular legislative session runs from January to April or May of odd-numbered years in Bismarck at the Capitol Building.
- **North Dakota Century Code (NDCC):** The compilation of our state laws. The printed version is a multi-volume set, comprising 23 volumes of statute as well as a "Constitutions" volume and a "Parallel Tables" volume, which helps legal researchers cross-reference sections of different versions of state laws.
- **Public Testimony:** How members of the public can express their support or opposition to a bill, to suggest amendments (changes), or to explain how the bill would affect them or others. Your opportunity to testify on a bill is during the committee hearing.
- **Resolution:** Used by the legislature to propose constitutional amendments, express opinions, request actions, congratulate, or console. Resolutions don't have the effect of law.
- **State Legislators:** Citizens elected by voters to serve in the state legislature. State legislators meet every other year to create laws and set the budget.

Did you know? North Dakota is one of four states where the legislature meets every other year. The other 46 states hold annual legislative sessions.



The League of Women Voters of North Dakota is a nonpartisan, grassroots organization dedicated to empowering voters and future voters across the state.

We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge, and the confidence to participate.

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This text is a publication that can either be printed or published electronically. This guide was developed by LWVND volunteer, Whitney Oxendahl. If you have questions, please contact LWVND at nodaklwv@gmail.com.