

**Organizational and Orientation Session**

**JOURNAL OF THE SENATE**

**Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly**

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**Bismarck, December 2, 2024**

The Senate convened at 1:00 p.m., with President Miller presiding.

The prayer was offered by Pastor Keith Ritchie, Cornerstone Community Church, Bismarck.

**COMMUNICATION FROM SECRETARY OF STATE MICHAEL HOWE  
November 24, 2024**

This letter is to provide a certification of members of the Office of State Senator in accordance with Section 54-03-03 of the North Dakota Century Code.

**Certificates of Election Issued**

The State Canvassing Board met on November 20, 2024, to certify the results of the 2024 General Election. Following the meeting, a Certificate of Election was issued to each of the newly elected members of the legislative assembly, as directed in Section 16.1-15-46 of the North Dakota Century Code. I've included copies of the Certificates of Election for each of the newly elected members for your records. In addition, as required by Section 4, Article XI, of the North Dakota Constitution, an Oath of Office was provided to each Senator, with instructions to execute the Oath before a Notary Public and file it with the Secretary of State before he or she assumes the duties of their office.

**Current Office Holders**

I've also included a certified list of the members of the Senate whose terms in office do not expire until November 30, 2026.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Dakota at the Capitol in the City of Bismarck on this date.

**Certification of Members of the Senate**

<b>Senator</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Term Ends</b>
Brad Bekkedahl	District 01	11/30/2026
Mark Enget*	District 02	11/30/2028
Bob Paulson	District 03	11/30/2026
Chuck Walen*	District 04	11/30/2028
Randy Burckhard	District 05	11/30/2026
Paul Thomas*	District 06	11/30/2028
Michelle Axtman	District 07	11/30/2026
Jeffery Magrum*	District 08	11/30/2028
Richard Marcellais*	District 09	11/30/2026
Ryan Braunberger*	District 10	11/30/2028
Tim Mathern	District 11	11/30/2026
Cole Conley*	District 12	11/30/2028
Judy Lee	District 13	11/30/2026
Jerry Klein*	District 14	11/30/2028
Kent Weston*	District 15	11/30/2026
David Clemens*	District 16	11/30/2028

Senator	District	Term Ends
Jonathan Sickler	District 17	11/30/2026
Scott Meyer*	District 18	11/30/2028
Janne Myrdal	District 19	11/30/2026
Randy Lemm*	District 20	11/30/2028
Kathy Hogan	District 21	11/30/2026
Mark Weber*	District 22	11/30/2028
Todd Beard	District 23	11/30/2026
Mike Wobbema*	District 24	11/30/2028
Larry Luick	District 25	11/30/2026
Dale Patten*	District 26	11/30/2028
Kristin Roers	District 27	11/30/2026
Robert Erbele*	District 28	11/30/2028
Terry Wanzek	District 29	11/30/2026
Diane Larson*	District 30	11/30/2028
Donald Schaible	District 31	11/30/2026
Dick Dever*	District 32	11/30/2028
Keith Boehm	District 33	11/30/2026
Justin Gerhardt*	District 34	11/30/2028
Sean Cleary	District 35	11/30/2026
Desiree Van Oosting*	District 36	11/30/2028
Dean Rummel	District 37	11/30/2026
David Hogue*	District 38	11/30/2028
Greg Kessel	District 39	11/30/2026
Jose Castaneda*	District 40	11/30/2028
Kyle Davison	District 41	11/30/2026
Claire Cory*	District 42	11/30/2028
Jeff Barta	District 43	11/30/2026
Joshua Boschee*	District 44	11/30/2028
Ronald Sorvaag	District 45	11/30/2026
Michelle Powers*	District 46	11/30/2028
Mike Dwyer	District 47	11/30/2026

*An asterisk (\*) next to the office holders name indicates the office holder was elected during the 2024 General Election and a Certificate of Election is attached herein.*

The roll was called and all members were present except Senator Marcellais.

A quorum was declared by the President.

#### **MOTION**

**SEN. KLEIN MOVED** a committee of two be appointed to escort Governor Doug Burgum to the rostrum to administer the Oath of Office to the newly elected members, which motion prevailed. The President appointed Sens. Lee and Mathern.

#### **OATH OF OFFICE**

**GOVERNOR DOUG BURGUM ADMINISTERED** the Oath of Office to the newly elected Senators.

**MOTION**

**SEN. KLEIN MOVED** the Senate adopt as temporary rules the Senate and Joint Rules of the 68th Legislative Assembly, as adopted on Wednesday, December 7, 2022, which motion prevailed.

**DISTRIBUTION OF LEGISLATORS' MATERIAL**

Mr. John Bjornson, Director of the Legislative Council, explained contents of the packets handed out to the members of the Senate.

**MOTION**

**SEN. KLEIN MOVED** that the Senate stand in recess until 2:20 p.m., which motion prevailed.

**THE SENATE RECONVENED** pursuant to recess taken, with President Miller presiding.

**MOTION**

**SEN. KLEIN MOVED** the nomination of Shanda Morgan for the office of Secretary of the Senate, which motion prevailed.

**MOTION**

**SEN. KLEIN MOVED** the nominations cease and that a unanimous ballot be cast for Shanda Morgan as Secretary of the Senate, which motion prevailed.

**MOTION**

**SEN. KLEIN MOVED** the nomination of Sonja King for the office of Journal Reporter.

**MOTION**

**SEN. KLEIN MOVED** that nominations cease and that a unanimous ballot be cast for Sonja King for the office of Journal Reporter, which motion prevailed.

**MOTION**

**SEN. KLEIN MOVED** the nomination of Jim Klundt for the office of Sergeant-at-Arms.

**MOTION**

**SEN. KLEIN MOVED** that nominations cease and that a unanimous ballot be cast for Jim Klundt for the office of Sergeant-at-Arms, which motion prevailed.

**OATH OF OFFICE**

**PRESIDENT MILLER ADMINISTERED** the Oath of Office to the Secretary of the Senate, the Journal Reporter, and the Sergeant-At-Arms.

**REMARKS OF SENATOR DEVER**

Life is good in North Dakota! Life is really good!

Twenty years ago, we were a state in search of a future. The statewide mantra was, "The best and brightest are leaving the state." Economic development efforts made a difference, but the trajectory of the economy was horizontal with a slight rise.

Then the Bakken boomed. Along with it came opportunity and great challenges. Investing to build infrastructure for a booming population required real leadership. The legislature was an important part, but the local communities stepped up to meet those challenges.

Senator Bekkedahl stepped up as Commissioner Bekkedahl in Williston, having taken that office in 1996 and continuing even now.

In 2015 he brought that leadership to Bismarck as the Senator from District 1. As a dentist, one of his victories in his first session was the defeat of a bill I sponsored allowing for mid-level dentistry. He did it with such grace that he and I became close personal friends.

Always a public servant, Brad retired from the ND National Guard as a full Colonel.

He continues his life of leadership now in the Senate as Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Somebody needs to know where all the money is, and he certainly does.

It is my distinct honor to nominate my good friend Senator Brad Bekkedahl as the next President Pro-Tempore, and I look forward to his leadership in that capacity.

#### **MOTION**

**SEN. DEVER MOVED** the nomination of Sen. Bekkedahl for the office of President Pro Tempore.

#### **MOTION**

**SEN. MATHERN MOVED** that nominations cease and the Senate cast a unanimous ballot for Sen. Bekkedahl for the office of President Pro Tempore, which motion prevailed on a voice vote.

#### **MOTION**

**SEN. KLEIN MOVED** that a committee of two be appointed to escort the newly elected President Pro Tempore to the rostrum, which motion prevailed. The President appointed Sens. Dever and Sorvaag.

#### **OATH OF OFFICE**

**PRESIDENT MILLER ADMINISTERED** the Oath of Office to President Pro Tempore Bekkedahl.

#### **REMARKS OF PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE BEKKEDAHL**

Madam President Miller, Majority Leader Hogue, Minority Leader Hogan, Senators, Staff, and Guests.

Thank you for bestowing this honor to serve as your session President Pro Tempore. I want to thank the minority party for their gracious support as well.

I also want to thank my family, friends, and constituents for all their support. As you all know, when we serve, it places burdens on them as well, and we couldn't do this job without their assistance. Just like the military, they serve with us.

People that know me well also know that I am not as comfortable giving speeches to an audience as I am in one-on-one conversations. That being said, I'll do my best to impart my sincere appreciation and share some bits of wisdom along the way. This will probably be the shortest speech you hear all session, and I hope the brevity of my remarks do not diminish in any way the appreciation I have for the responsibility you have granted me.

A trip to the ND Senate was never on my radar screen or plan in life. Like many of you here today, my journey began by serving in local capacities of leadership. My service to Boy Scouts, my church, hockey, the military, and community all displayed to others my desire to serve. Because of these exposures, I was asked to run for the Park Board where I served for 8 years and from there the City Commission where I am in my 28th year. In 2014, District 1 Senator Stan Lyson announced his retirement and asked me to run for his seat.

Stan and I were neighbors and both charter members of our church, and his request was extremely humbling, as he had been a mentor to me for most of my life. When the press asked me why I was running for this office, I responded "I hope to make good decisions for North Dakota that will also be good for the residents of my district and community."

The reason I brought up this history of how I got here was not so you would know more about me. It is to make the point that we all started our journey to this chamber as involved local citizens. We were asked to serve. Our motivation is to make things better for all our residents. That is the basis of our citizen legislature, which has been little changed since our statehood 135 years ago. It instills in me, and I'm sure in you as well, a great deal of pride in our State of North Dakota.

In all my positions, in order to be a successful public servant, I had to Listen, Learn, and then Lead. I've never seen single agenda candidates be very successful in elective office but have watched those that take the time to listen and learn become effective leaders. Many of these people have been mentors to me and I can't thank them enough. In fact, I have had many mentors, past and present in this chamber that I have learned from. You may not know it, but all of you have played a role. It may have been only a single conversation where you imparted some wisdom without even realizing it. Or, it may have been an invitation to have lunch or dinner to relax and converse. Sometimes, it was a note of congratulations or a pat

on the back in support. I can truly say I have learned something from all of you and look forward to learning from our new colleagues as well.

The real reason this is important is I have learned that the North Dakota Senate is a place where we develop Relationships, gain Respect, and ultimately get Results. We work together pretty intensely for 4 months every 2 years and that promotes the development of these Relationships, Respect, and Results. And the real winners are all the residents of North Dakota.

I thank you all from the bottom of my heart for this honor you have bestowed upon me. I hope that what I have imparted to you today is to remember the three L's of Listen, Learn, and Lead and the three R's of Relationships, Respect, and Results. They have been important in my public service, and I hope they help all of us to succeed. Remembering all the time that the only reason North Dakota exists as a state is to serve the residents and we have an immense responsibility to make that happen.

Thanks for listening and your support. Let's work together to bring great results this session for everyone. God's blessings to all of you, our State, and our Country.

### SELECTION OF SEATS

**PRESIDENT MILLER ANNOUNCED** that the Senate seats would be selected according to the following seniority table:

#### 2025 SENATE SENIORITY TABLE (2025 session not included)

Name	Sessions Served	Total Senate Sessions	Total Legislative Sessions
Mathern, Tim	1987-89-91-93-95-97-99-01-03-05-07-09-11-13-15-17-19-21-23	19	19
Lee, Judy	1995-97-99-01-03-05-07-09-11-13-15-17-19-21-23	15	15
Klein, Jerry	1997-99-01-03-05-07-09-11-13-15-17-19-21-23	14	14
Wanzek, Terry M.	(House 1993)-95-97-99-01-07-09-11-13-15-17-19-21-23	13	14
Dever, Dick	2001-03-05-07-09-11-13-15-17-19-21-23	12	12
Erbele, Robert	2001-03-05-07-09-11-13-15-17-19-21-23	12	12
Hogue, David	2009-11-13-15-17-19-21-23	8	8
Marcellais, Richard	2007-09-11-13-15-17-19-21	8	8
Burckhard, Randy A.	2011-13-15-17-19-21-23	7	7
Luick, Larry	2011-13-15-17-19-21-23	7	7
Schaible, Donald	2011-13-15-17-19-21-23	7	7
Sorvaag, Ronald	2011-13-15-17-19-21-23	7	7
Bekkedahl, Brad	2015-17-19-21-23	5	5
Davison, Kyle	2015-17-19-21-23	5	5
Larson, Diane	(House 1989-13-15)-17-19-21-23	4	7
Clemens, David A.	2017-19-21-23	4	4
Meyer, Scott	2017-19-21-23	4	4
Myrdal, Janne	2017-19-21-23	4	4
Hogan, Kathy	House (2009-11-13-15-17)-19-21-23	3	8

Dwyer, Michael	2019-21-23	3	3
Patten, Dale	2019-21-23	3	3
Roers, Kristin	2019-21-23	3	3
Lemm, Randy D.	2019-21-23	3	3
Conley, Cole	2021-23	2	2
Weber, Mark F.	2021-23	2	2
Wobbema, Michael A.	2021-23	2	2
Sickler, Jonathan	2023	1	1
Magrum, Jeffery J.	(House 2017-19-21)-23	1	4
Paulson, Bob	(House 2019-21)-23	1	3
Axtman, Michelle	2023	1	1
Barta, Jeff	2023	1	1
Beard, Todd	2023	1	1
Boehm, Keith	2023	1	1
Braunberger, Ryan	2023	1	1
Cleary, Sean	2023	1	1
Kessel, Greg	2023	1	1
Rummel, Dean	2023	1	1
Weston, Kent	2023	1	1
Gerhardt, Justin		0	0
Boschee, Josh	(House 2013-15-17-19-21-23)	0	6
Cory, Claire	(House 2021-23)	0	2
Thomas, Paul J.	(House 2021-23)	0	2
Castaneda, Jose L.		0	0
Enget, Mark		0	0
Powers, Michelle		0	0
Desiree Van Oosting		0	0
Chuck Walen		0	0

#### MOTION

**SEN. KLEIN MOVED** that the remarks of President Pro Tempore Bekkedahl be published in the journal, which motion prevailed.

#### MOTION

**SEN. KLEIN MOVED** that a committee of three be appointed to notify the Governor and the House that the Senate is organized and ready to transact business, which motion prevailed. The President announced the appointment of Sens. Castaneda, Powers, and Enget.

#### MOTION

**SEN. KLEIN MOVED** that a committee of seven be appointed to form, with Majority Leader Hogue, the **Committee on Committees**, which motion prevailed. The President announced the appointment of Sens. Hogue, Meyer, Burckhard, Dwyer, Myrdal, Hogan, Mathern, and Braunberger.

#### MOTION

**SEN. KLEIN MOVED** that a committee of five be appointed to act as the **Delayed Bills Committee**, which motion prevailed. The President announced the appointment of Sens. Myrdal, Meyer, Klein, Conley, and Mathern.

#### MOTION

**SEN. KLEIN MOVED** that a committee of three be appointed to act as the **Committee on**

**Arrangements for Senate Committee Rooms**, which motion prevailed. The President announced the appointment of Sens. Axtman, Davison, and Powers.

**MOTION**

**SEN. KLEIN MOVED** that a committee of five be appointed to act as the **Employment Committee**, which motion prevailed. The President announced the appointment of Sens. Dever, Burckhard, Axtman, Barta, and Boschee.

**MOTION**

**SEN. KLEIN MOVED** that a committee of three be appointed to act as the **Committee on Correction and Revision of the Journal**, which motion prevailed. The President announced the appointment of Sens. Beard, Cleary, and Weston.

**MOTION**

**SEN. KLEIN MOVED** that a committee of eight be appointed to act as the **Rules Committee**, which motion prevailed. The President announced the appointment of Sens. Klein, Bekkedahl, Davison, Dwyer, Larson, Cory, Hogan, and Boschee.

**MOTION**

**SEN. KLEIN MOVED** that the absent member be excused, which motion prevailed on a voice vote.

**MOTION**

**SEN. KLEIN MOVED** that the Senate stand adjourned until 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, December 3, 2024, which motion prevailed on a voice vote.

The Senate stood adjourned pursuant to Senator Klein's motion.

**Shanda Morgan, Secretary**

